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OPINION METER

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I N S I D E

BUSINESS



Japan's trade deficit widens as exports plunge from a year earlier.

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WORLD



The funeral for Lebanon's slain intel chief descends into chaos.

► PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE



She dreamed a dream but what happened next to Susan Boyle?

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Weindl in poor health; seeks urgent treatment **PAGE 2**
Miah returns to court in new criminal case. **PAGE 3**

PUTC pulls out from PPA probe

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) pulled out his panel yesterday from an ongoing probe into a \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, five days after Torres and three other PUTC members voted against a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial related to a host of issues that include the 25-year diesel power plant deal. **See PUTC on Page 4**



Torres

Speaker dissolves impeachment panel

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) has dissolved the Special Committee on Impeachment after a resolution impeaching Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for 16 allegations of corruption, neglect of duty, and felony was defeated last week. But panel chair Rep. Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) said yesterday the committee's report will still be completed as part of the special panel's record of work that is now a part of CNMI history.

Cabrera's memo dissolving the spe-

cial committee is dated Oct. 19, but a copy was sent only yesterday.

At the same time, Fitial reiterated his previous statement to the media stating, "I didn't do anything wrong, why would I be impeached?"



Deleon Guerrero

See SPEAKER on Page 4

PIPER regional meet kicks off

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over 140 participants from all over the Pacific region graced yesterday's opening of the historic five-

► **Over 140 attendees on first day**

day 2012 Pacific Islands Preparedness Emergency Response regional meeting at the Kanoa Resort in Supe.

Warren Villagomez, emergency preparedness program director for the Common-

wealth Healthcare Corp., said he is delighted to see the participation of visiting partners from neighboring island nations and representatives of local government partners in the Commonwealth.

Corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta recognized visiting officials from the

See PIPER on Page 4



Over 140 participants from Pacific nations and territories take part yesterday in the first day of the weeklong 2012 Pacific Islands Preparedness and Emergency Response regional meeting at the Kanoa Resort on Saipan.

MONETH G. DEPOSA

'Fat' tax eyed on 30 products

► **Administration-backed bill to help CHC pay debt, promote healthy living**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

An administration-sponsored bill pre-filed yesterday levies a new "fat" tax of 5 percent on at least 30 consumer goods, including betel nuts, candies, chocolates, ice cream and edible ice, chewing tobacco, cigarettes, malt beer, wine, soft drinks, cooking oil, and peanut butter and paste.

House Bill 17-320 or the Health Care Impact Tax Act seeks to achieve two goals: Help the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. pay off a \$4.58 million debt to the Marianas Public Land Trust, and "combat the growing problem of obesity" in the CNMI.

Vice speaker Felicidad Ogomoro (Cov-Saipan), in her bill, said the measure will ensure that CHC meets its ob-

See TAX on Page 4



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Local

Weindl in poor health; seeks urgent treatment

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Thomas Weindl, a former Whispering Palms School principal facing charges in federal court for allegedly accessing child porn on the Internet, is seeking urgent medical care.

David Banes, counsel for the 57-year-old Weindl, informed the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that, according to Dr. Gregory Kotheimer of the Commonwealth Health Center, the defendant needs to undergo various medical evaluations and studies, including a CT scan and a psychiatric and neurological evaluation.

Banes asked the court to or-

der the U.S. Marshall's Office to allow Weindl to receive urgent medical treatment.

The lawyer said that Dr. Kotheimer has examined Weindl several times due to his client's poor health.

Banes said that, on Oct. 11 the doctor informed him that Weindl needs immediate various medical studies related to a possible diagnosis of premature dementia as well as concerns

12-member accreditation team visits NMC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A team from the Accrediting Commission for Community Junior Colleges arrived over the

about his current prescriptions.

Banes said his client suffers from hypertension, diabetes, and heart disease.

The lawyer said the studies requested by Kotheimer include a CT scan, a psychiatric evaluation, and a neurological examination.

Banes said that when the doctor tried to arrange for Weindl to undergo these studies and treatment, the U.S. Marshall's Office

weekend for a weeklong visit and inspection of the Northern Marianas College.

Saipan Tribune learned that the group is composed of 12 members, many of them new to

informed Banes that the defendant must be escorted to CHC. This requires a court order.

The lawyer said he then contacted assistant U.S. attorney Rami Badawy, who stated he does not oppose this.

The indictment charged Weindl with two counts of receipt of child pornography and two counts of access with intent to view child pornography. He pleaded not guilty.

the island and are either current or past presidents of other community colleges and universities.

Yesterday was the supposed start of their four-day inspection but sources privy to the issue disclosed that the official campus visit was moved to today. They will be meeting with various governance councils of the college, including the faculty and staff senates, and the Associated Students of NMC.

A one-on-one interview with members of the NMC Board of

See TEAM on Page 4

Zoning puts off outreach efforts due to polls

The Commonwealth Zoning board has decided to wait until after the November election to ramp up efforts in doing presentations at the Legislature on the proposed amendments to the zoning law.

Newly elected board vice chair Herman P. Sablan described as "very disruptive" the period leading to the Nov. 6 mid-term election during Thursday's meeting at the Zoning Office in Dandan.

Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogunoro agreed, saying that she is looking at having the presentations in January 2013, after the new set of lawmakers have settled in their offices.

The board resubmitted in May its original proposed amendments to the Saipan Zoning Law and Maps of 2008.

Zoning legal counsel Kate Fuller said that the version of the zoning law they received from the House legal counsel still includes amendments that the board had rejected at the recommendation of the Zoning staff.

Fuller cited as example the rezoning of the entire Tanapag village into a commercial zone, "which I don't think anybody wants."

The Zoning office and board also eye re-introducing amendments to the Saipan Adult Gambling Machine Business Zoning Act of 2012, which aims to relocate poker establishments away from residential zones. (Clarissa V. David)



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

MVA Ramps Up Saipan Marathon Machine



The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) team in Japan has started preparations for the next Saipan Marathon event to be held on March 2, 2013.

The MVA is closely communicating with ad agency Dentsu about possible event sponsors and has begun registration for the 8th Saipan Marathon this month, supported by fliers, official websites, and web registration system via Runnet (<http://runnet.jp/>), Sports Entry (<http://www.sportsentry.ne.jp/>), and JTB Sports Station (<https://jtbSports.jp/>).

JTB World Vacations has already begun planning to produce the Saipan Marathon package tour again this year. The MVA is discussing with the representative of JogNote (<http://www.jognote.com/>), a Social Network Site (SNS) specialized for runners and joggers, about the possibility of placing the Saipan Marathon information on its website.

The MVA is also planning to set up a promotion booth at three marathon events: The 3rd Sanspo Karuizawa Resort Marathon on October 28, The 1st Fujisan Marathon on November 25, and Run for the Cure Jogging Event on December 1.

For more information on the Saipan Marathon, visit the MVA Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune



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Miah returns to court in new case; pleads not guilty

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mohammad Jahangir Miah appeared again in Superior Court to be arraigned in another criminal case yesterday, just four days after the court dismissed

the same charges filed against him in a separate case.

Miah, 37, appeared with his lawyer, Michael Ernest, who appeared on behalf of court-appointed counsel Colin M. Thompson.

Miah, through counsel, pleaded not guilty.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman scheduled a case management conference on Nov. 28, 2012, at 9am before Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Chief Prosecutor Peter Prestley appeared for the government at the hearing.

The information filed on Oct. 15 charged Miah with one count of receiving stolen property and four counts of criminal contempt.

According to Prestley in the information, Miah received on Oct. 3, 2012, a black Fossil wristwatch belonging to Evonnie Camacho, knowing that it had been stolen.

Prestley said that Miah committed criminal contempt on that day because he failed to comply with the court's bail orders on his pending four criminal cases.

Police served Miah the arrest warrant in this case on Oct. 4 in San Antonio. Miah posted a \$1,000 cash bail and was released.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that a police officer responded to a residence in Finasisu on Sept. 24, 2012, where a burglary and theft occurred.

Sakisat said that, according to Evonnie Camacho, stolen from the house were her black Fossil

wristwatch, a pink Sony Vaio laptop computer, and a 32-inch Sanyo flatscreen TV.

Sakisat said that a police search for Islam Sarijul last Oct. 3, led to the house of Miah. The officers did not find Islam at Miah's house but still searched the residence.

Police detective Jessie Durball, one of the three officers who searched Miah's room, allegedly found beneath a bed several pieces of small plastic Ziplock bags, several wristwatches, and a Toshiba laptop.

Sakisat said that, on Oct. 4, he showed Camacho photographs of the wristwatches found in Miah's house, and that the victim positively identified her stolen black Fossil wristwatch as one of the items.

Last Oct. 10, police arrested Miah again on the same four charges. The only difference is that in this case the stolen item that Miah allegedly received was a Canon digital video camcorder belonging to William S.

Reyes Elementary School.

On Thursday last week, Associate Judge Perry B. Inos dismissed the charges against Miah pertaining to Canon digital video camcorder.

Inos said he received no testimony or evidence that Miah purposely received, retained, or disposed of the Canon digital video camcorder that belonged to WSR or the Public School System.

"In fact, there was no evidence that defendant came in contact with or had any control over the stolen property," said Inos in dismissing all four charges.

Miah is awaiting sentencing in federal court for conspiracy to unlawfully produce driver's licenses.

Opening of Kagman health center pushed to January

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Residents of Kagman will have to wait a while longer before their new health center becomes operational following the decision of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to move the target opening to January 2013.

The Kagman Community Health Center was supposed to open on Oct. 1, pursuant to the requirement of the federal government that it must open

120 days after its creation is approved.

Roxanne Diaz, director for the Public Health Division, said the corporation—being the expenditure authority of the grant—asked for an extension on the opening date because the renovation work on the old detention facility in Kagman II is not yet done.

Cost of the renovation is \$100,000, according to Diaz, and the bidding process is now ongoing.

"We've been given an approval to extend the service date to January so renovation project will be completed," Diaz said.

The corporation was awarded a \$608,333 grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration in June to build the new health center. To avail of the grant, the corporation committed to a matching share for

its operations.

It will serve as a wellness, prevention, and primary care center and will be run by an independent board of directors, headed by chair James Lizama.

Diaz told *Saipan Tribune* that three key personnel have already been hired for the new center: the executive director, business manager, and an administrative assistant.

Vince Castro was named executive director, while interim director for medical affairs is Dr. Daniel Lamar.

Staffing for other positions has yet to be finalized. Based on the initial plan for the new center, 14 personnel will be stationed there.

Because of the many changes that have happened since 2010, Diaz said there's a need to reorganize and refocus priorities in terms of staffing.

\$40K for Rota patients, other programs proposed

Days before Gov. Benigno R. Fitial line-item vetoed a local bill reducing allotments for Rota patients and other programs from \$20,000 to only \$4,120, Rep. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota) pre-filed another local measure that appropriates \$40,000 from poker revenues.

Santos' House Local Bill 17-91 was pre-filed on Sept. 25 but has yet to be introduced after the last House session on Oct. 17 focused only on voting on a resolution impeaching the governor. The impeachment resolution failed to pass with only nine of 14 "yes" votes needed to move it to the Senate for trial.

As of yesterday, there's no telling when the House will have its next session. Rota patients have been waiting for their monthly subsidy since at least June.

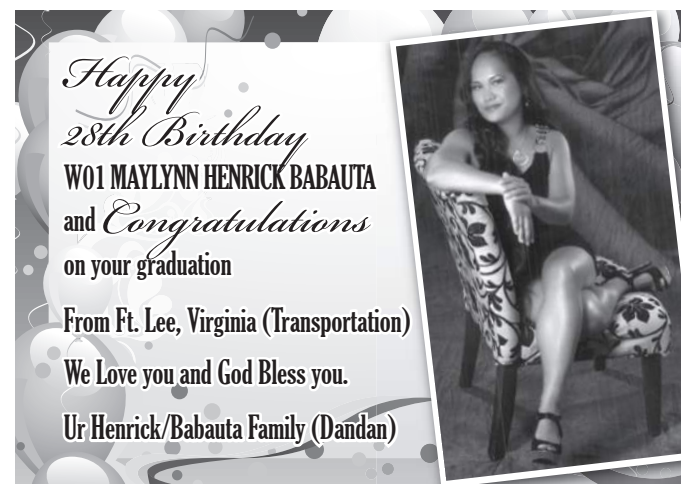
Santos' new local bill seeks to appropriate \$21,600 for 16 Rota patients on dialysis and those that are terminally ill, at \$450 each for June, July, and August 2012.

Another \$9,000 is proposed for 10 on dialysis and terminally ill Rota patients for \$300 each for June, July, and August.

The measure also seeks to appropriate \$4,000 for the payment of some Rota employees' retroactive salary.

Another \$4,000 is sought for the Rota Municipal Scholarship Fund, and \$1,400 for the Rota Liaison Office's fuel and lubrication expenses.

Early this month, Santos and Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) separately asked the governor to reinstate the funding for Rota patients and other programs that Fitial slashed when he signed Rota Local Law 17-23 with line-item vetoes reducing allotments from \$20,000 to only \$4,120. (*Haidée V. Eugenio*)



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Karidat cancels golf tourney but raffle is still a go

Karidat Social Services cancelled its fundraising golf tournament scheduled on Oct. 6, but executive director Angie V. Guerrero said the social services agency will still carry on with the tournament raffle draw.

Guerrero said in an interview Thursday that the cancellation of the event scheduled two Saturdays ago was due to inclement weather.

She said she is still consulting the board on whether the annual fundraiser will proceed before the year ends or by 2013, given that there are a number of events and activities relating to the

holidays that have been lined up for the community.

"We have to check the venue if they can accommodate us," added Guerrero.

The Karidat board is composed of newly elected president Esther Fleming, vice president Joe Ayuyu, secretary Marcie Tomokane, and treasurer Josephine Sablan.

Guerrero emphasized that the raffle draw is still on and that they anticipate drawing the winning tickets before Thanksgiving on Nov. 22.

"Anybody who wants to help Karidat by buying raffle tickets, we'd really

appreciate that," said Guerrero.

For only \$1 per ticket, buyers will have a chance to win any of the exciting prizes donated by various sponsors and donors from the community.

TAX

From Page 1

ligations to MPLT by assessing a "special health care impact tax on unhealthy items including certain foodstuff and tobacco products."

"The tax assessed in this section shall be collected by the Division of Customs at the point of entry," Ogu-moro's bill reads.

Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, said yesterday that as a rule, the Chamber would oppose any increase in taxation or any tax that leads to an increase in consumer pricing.

"SCC will review the bill to assess its impact as well as how the tax is delivered," he said.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is the largest business organization in the CNMI with over 150 members.

Tickets are available for sale at the Karidat office in Chalan Kanoa.

"We really appreciate the help we receive from all our donors in the community. We have received a lot of responses. Some people have been really generous. I really admire their spirit of giving because you know, these are re-

ally hard times but the businesses and different organizations somehow are always willing to help out to alleviate some of the problems we have here," said Guerrero.

For more information, visit Karidat office or call 234-5248 or 6981. *(Clarissa V. David)*

PUTC

From Page 1

PUTC's pullout leaves the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee doing the investigation on the power agreement on its own.

Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the JGO panel, separately said yesterday that his committee will move on with the investigation.

"As JGO chairman, the committee will proceed with the investigation. However, I would like to see first the completed report of the Impeachment Committee on the PPA so we don't have to duplicate their efforts and I believe that report is forthcoming," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

House minority leader Joe Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan), who headed the Special Committee on Impeachment, said yesterday a completed committee report will be forthcoming despite the dissolution of the committee. *See related story.*

Demapan said the JGO Committee could meet as early as Thursday. "This is not just me, it's the whole committee so all members will have to decide how to go about this investigation," he added.

PPA and the CNMI

Torres, one of the longest serving lawmakers on Capital Hill, said he now believes the 25-year power purchase agreement is "in the best interest of the CNMI."

This is contrary to his statements in August when he said, "No amount of 'political perfume' can cover a 'sweetheart pile of wheeling and dealing crap.'"

"Maybe I spoke too early at the time. I believe it's in the CNMI's best interest. You will have a new power plant, 10 percent more efficient than the ones we have right now, and it's going to be operated by a private company," Torres said in an interview.

Torres also sent a brief memo yesterday to House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) notifying him of his decision to pull out the PUTC from the probe.

"In light of the recent impeachment hearings in regards to the \$190-million PPA and CUC [Commonwealth Utilities Corp.] by your Special Committee on Impeachment, I am informing you that PUTC will no longer partake in the continued investigation of the \$190 million PPA and possible CUC oversight hearings," Torres told the speaker.

Disappointing

Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), a member of the PUTC Committee and one of those who voted to impeach the governor, questioned whether Torres can unilaterally decide on pulling out the whole committee from such an "important issue at hand."

He also described Torres' decision as "strange and disappointing" although

"not surprising." Dela Cruz is the chairman of the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities, Infrastructure and Communications.

As of last night, the speaker has yet to comment on the PUTC panel chairman's decision to withdraw the whole committee from the joint investigation with the JGO panel.

Dela Cruz also strongly disagreed with Torres' statement that the PPA is "in the CNMI's best interest."

"I don't even believe that Congressman Torres read the whole PPA to come up with an understanding of the issues or if he did, I can't believe after looking at all these provisions, he believes the PPA is good. Him being chairman of the House PUTC, he would brush this aside. This PPA is going to hurt the people of the Commonwealth," Dela Cruz said.

Cabrera asked both the PUTC and JGO Committees in August to jointly probe the PPA.

The joint probe was intended to determine, among other things, whether the PPA is a "public indebtedness" and should therefore require the Legislature's approval and not only the governor's signature.

Torres said he'd prefer that the full House debate on the issue.

He added that those who oppose the deal could also ask the courts to determine whether the PPA is public indebtedness or not.

Dela Cruz said it is unbelievable and hypocritical for Torres to sing a different tune about the \$190.8-million PPA without even weighing the evidence gathered by the Impeachment Committee and the testimony of witnesses, including those from CUC saying the PPA is one-sided, lacked a full economic analysis, and not in the best interest of the CNMI as it is currently written.

Torres said the Special Committee on Impeachment "exaggerated the whole thing" about the PPA.

In the Senate, the Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations continues to look into the use of law enforcement officials and government resources to allegedly shield former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham from being served a penal summons, among other things.

Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), chairman of the EAGI panel, said he has yet to receive formal reports from the Department of Public Safety and the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the result of their internal investigations. Cruz also recently asked the Office of the Attorney General to conduct an independent probe on the matter.

These investigations into the \$190.8-million power purchase deal and the Buckingham "escort" issue continue despite last week's defeat of a resolution impeaching the governor in connection with these same issues and others.

PIPER

From Page 1

federal procurement and grants management program who facilitated the event's opening sessions: Allison Johnson and Glynnis Taylor.

According to Villagomez, the CNMI's emergency preparedness program receives over \$600,000 in federal grants each year. Yesterday's workshop on the proper administration of federal grants, he said, will further strengthen the program's compliance with standards and requirements of granting agencies, besides opening up more opportunities for federal aid.

For Villagomez, the CNMI's emergency preparedness and response program has stood the test of time.

"I think we're standing up. Each jurisdiction has unique challenges and it involves culture of the islands. There

are different dynamics that we need to adopt to make sure we don't leave anybody behind," said Villagomez.

After this weeklong workshop, Villagomez is confident in the further growth of all emergency and preparedness programs throughout the Pacific region.

Johnson emphasized that grant recipients, once ready to drawdown federal monies, are fully accountable for the award and are expected to adhere to all the grant's conditions and requirements. She said the goal of the federal health agency is to make each island successful in managing federal dollars.

"The goal of CDC [Centers for Disease Control] is to make sure you are successful because your success is our success," she told the crowd composed of officials and representatives from the CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Marshall Islands, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Johnson gave attendees an overview

SPEAKER

From Page 1

Deleon Guerrero said he has yet to see a copy of the speaker's memo but said Cabrera has the authority to dissolve the committee.

The House leadership pushed through with an Oct. 17 vote on the impeachment resolution, despite a request from the special committee to give them a few more days to complete the report and recommendation to the full House.

House Resolution 17-111, whose main author is Deleon Guerrero, got only nine of at least 14 "yes" votes needed to impeach the governor and move the process to the Senate for trial.

The 10 who voted "no" to the impeachment resolution are aligned with

the governor and his Republican Party.

Hours before that critical vote, the Special Committee on Impeachment met for the last time to deliberate and vote on the remaining articles of impeachment and gave instructions to the Legislative Bureau to compile all the evidence gathered—including written testimony, documents, recording of the impeachment hearings, and a completed report on the findings and work of the committee.

"There will be a proper committee report even though I don't expect it to be signed by all the members," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

Because this was the first time in CNMI history that a resolution impeaching the governor was introduced, taken up by a special committee and voted on by the House albeit without waiting for the committee report, re-

of the Procurement and Grants Office, which supports CDC in accomplishing its public health mission and ensures the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of CDC's financial grants. She also shared the organization's funding history as well as the laws, regulations, and policies in place.

According to Johnson, the purpose of grants management is to coordinate the business, administration, and financial aspects of federal awards. She also explained the grants management process and the importance of writing and completing grant applications, preparing budget guidelines, reporting requirements, and progress reports, among others.

Today, the workshop will focus on the Strategic National Stockpile warehouse operations, inventory management, site security training, and SNS antibiotic dispensing. The conference will last until Friday, Oct. 26.

cords, and reports about the impeachment process in the House will still be part of the CNMI's political history.

"It's a little sad we didn't get to complete the report before the resolution was put to a vote. But evidence we gathered are available to future scholars, future leaders. Hopefully the records will be preserved," he said.

The critical vote on the impeachment resolution came days before the Nov. 6 mid-term elections.

Evidence gathered by the impeachment committee are also available to federal agencies who may want to review the allegations raised against the governor, including the escape of a federal inmate to give the governor a private massage in January 2010 and the sole-source \$190.8-million power purchase agreement, among other issues.

in January next year.

The visiting team is expected to provide the college its observations and exit report at the end of the visit.

In an earlier statement, NMC stated that the accrediting commission is visiting the college to interview and verify the information provided in the self-evaluation report submitted in August.

The self-evaluation report will be made public after the commission acts on it during its January 2013 meeting.

TEAM

From Page 2

Regents is also slated to begin today and the first three regents will be interviewed.

The team will be here until Thursday.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain more details about the team visit but the NMC President's Office has yet to issue a statement.

Sources disclosed yesterday that the 12-member team this year is so far the largest delegation from the commission.

The commission placed NMC on continued probation status due to remaining standards and recommendations that have not been fixed yet by the college.

NMC submitted its 2012 self-evaluation report to the commission in August this year. The commission will decide on the college's accreditation fate

Flores marks birthday with visit to Dora at CHC's ICU

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

Mayor Donald G. Flores, who turned 64 yesterday, marked his birthday by visiting 8-year-old Dora Grace Ada Camacho at the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center.

Flores was accompanied by Saipan Mayor's Office staffers Juan Aldan, Jeffrey Cabrera, Jack Deleon Guerrero, Francisco Diaz, and Keisha Nepaial.

Dora's mother, Jennifer Camacho Ada, welcomed them to the room where Dora spends her nights and days in bed due to a medical condition that has paralyzed her from the neck down.

Dora blinked her eyes to answer the mayor's question if he could read her a book. With the help of her mother, Dora selected the book *Dora and the Unicorn King* for Flores to read.

The mayor also presented Dora with a stuffed toy, which coincidentally was a



Mayor Donald G. Flores and his staff pose for a group photo with 8-year-old Dora Grace Ada Camacho and her mother, Jennifer, during yesterday's visit at the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center.

unicorn. He also read a card containing messages of support and encouragement as well as monetary donation from the employees at the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Flores said that yesterday's visit to Dora was his second. He

disclosed that Dora's grandfather, Ignacio Ada, is his neighbor and that Flores' great grandfather was also an Ada.

According to Flores, he wanted to have a memorable birthday celebration so he thought of spending a few moments with the girl who has brought together the entire community to support her family's efforts to fly her to the mainland for medical attention.

"The Lord works in mysterious ways and I know He can provide a miracle for Dora," said Flores. "I thank all my staff for being generous and making a donation for Dora. We all hope that arrangements can be made soon for Dora's speedy recovery."

Flores will also celebrate his birthday with a small banquet for his staff at the Mayor's Office.

Ada, Dora's mother, said in a separate interview that Dora receives a number of visitors who read to her but Flores' visit was different because it was the mayor's actual birthday.

"I know he's a very busy man but he took time to read a storybook for my daughter and I'm happy about that. I thank the entire community for giving my daughter the support, love, and prayers she needs. That's what she needs, that's what I need so my daughter can get her mind off of what she's going through," said Ada.

Retiree: Receiver should be appointed to take over Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With just two years left before exhausting all of the NMI Retirement Fund's assets, the U.S. District Court should already appoint a federal equity receiver to take over the NMI Retirement Fund, according to retiree Betty Johnson.

Johnson, through lawyers Robert Hatch, Bruce L. Jorgensen, and Stephen C. Woodruff, said there are no Commonwealth institutions that have the power or inclination to do anything to prevent the Fund's imminent collapse.

The receiver can play the traditional role of marshaling assets and reorganizing the Fund for the benefit of its beneficiaries with the power of the federal court behind it, said the lawyers.

This was their response to the Fund's and the CNMI government's opposition to Johnson's motion for the appointment of a receiver.

Johnson's counsels said the appointment of a federal receiver is the only available remedy to "preserve the property...for those ultimately entitled to receive them," because bankruptcy is not available.

In fact, the lawyers pointed out, the Fund's attempt to file a Chapter 11 bankruptcy case is essentially an admission that a federal receivership is warranted because only a federal receivership can achieve the same purposes.

They said a receiver can continue to pursue the Superior Court action (Fund's law-

suit against the government), which is a traditional and well-established role for a receiver.

Thus, the lawyers said, the appointment of receiver will not "enjoin" the Superior Court action and will not impair any ability it might have to enforce its judgment.

They asserted that a receiver needs to be appointed to avoid any future discrepancy as to whether the trustee ad litem can actually take necessary action to prevent irreparable harm.

The Fund and the CNMI government argue that the trustee ad litem can serve the same purpose as a receiver.

Fund counsel Braddock Huesman said a receiver will not force the Legislature to appropriate funding; it will not provide the Fund with board members; and it will not stop the government from implementing a takeover by executive fiat.

"Thus, a receivership is not warranted because Ms. Johnson has no claim that a receiver will protect her interests," Huesman said.

Johnson is suing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Fund trustees Adelina C. Roberto and Nacrina Barcinas, former Fund administrator Richard S. Villagomez, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, the CNMI government, Finance, Fund, and the Fund board for breach of contract, violation of the U.S. and CNMI constitutions, violation of due process, deprivation of rights, breach of fiduciary duty, and unjust enrichment.

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Russian charter flights to NMI to begin Oct. 26

Scheduled charter flights from Vladivostok to Saipan commence this week, generating anticipation in the Northern Marianas visitor industry sparked by last month's launch event in Russia that attracted 100 travel agent and media reps.

The flights are now scheduled to run from Oct. 26, 2012, through March 2013. However, if demand is strong, they may continue beyond that.

With the theme "Let's Go To the CNMI," the launch event hosted on Sept. 14, 2012, by AviaCharter DV aimed to generate interest in the destination

and spur sales of the biweekly flights. Aviacharter DV will fly Airbus - A320 aircraft with 150-passenger seating.

"Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are not only a sport and leisure destination, but a safe and comfortable place for everyone in the family to enjoy," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio while welcoming the travel trade representatives at the launch event. "Clean water and air and a fun, safe, tropical paradise is what your customers will find in the Northern Marianas Islands."

The packages for the charter flights will be family oriented. Families with two or more children under the age of 12 will be

given one free ticket for one child. Packages that include the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota will be also offered to travelers.

"We thank Aviacharter DV for organizing these direct charter flights from Vladivostok to Saipan," said Tenorio. "We ap-

preciate your support in promoting our islands and these charter flights to the citizens of the Primorski region." (MVA)

Investiture ceremony for Chief Justice Castro

The NMI Judiciary and the Judicial Council will host an investiture ceremony for CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Alejandro C. Castro on Friday, Oct.

26, 2012, at 10:30am in the Supreme Court Courtroom. The public is invited.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial nominated Castro to become the Commonwealth's fourth chief justice on Sept. 13, 2012.

Castro served as the acting chief justice following the retirement of Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan in September 2011. The acting chief justice appeared before the Senate's Committee on Exec-

utive Appointment and Government Investigation on Oct. 10, 2012. Following the committee's recommendation, the full Senate voted unanimously

to confirm Castro as chief justice. He was duly commissioned that same day, Oct. 11, 2012; Fitial administered the oath of office.

Before his ascension to the Supreme Court bench on July

9, 1998, Castro served the Commonwealth as Superior Court presiding judge (1993-1998); Superior Court associate judge (1989-1993); and CNMI attorney general (1986- 1989). (NMI Judiciary)



Castro



Dignitaries of AviaCharter DV and the Marianas Visitors Authority preside during ceremonies at a launch event held on Sept. 14, 2012, in Vladivostok to promote direct charter flights to Saipan. The flights will begin this week. Pictured from left are MVA managing director Perry Tenorio, MVA marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta, Pacific Islands Club (PIC) Saipan marketing manager for Russian market Anna Yushkova, PIC general manager Hiroki Sugie, Aviacharter DV deputy director Ekaterina Tokareva, and Aviacharter DV general director Roman Chernayvskii. MVA

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Air Force, Marine Corps training on FDM

The U.S. Marine Corps and Air Force will conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla from Oct. 22 to 24, from 4:30pm to 11pm.

The Marine Corps will also conduct training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Oct. 23, from 9:30am to 11pm.

The general public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla training area will be on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)

MHS PTA meeting today

Attention all Marianas High School Parents, guardians, teachers, students, and interested community members: There will be a Parent Teacher Association meeting today, Oct. 23, 2012, at 6:30pm in the MHS Gym. Should you have any questions, call 664-3805 or 237-3205/03. (PR)

John Gonzales LIVE schedule

Today's edition of *John Gonzales LIVE* will feature the topic "Mission of the Northern Marianas College," with guests Dr. Sharon D. Hart, NMC president; Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services; and Barbara Merfalen, dean of Academic Programs & Services.

Tomorrow's edition will fea-

ture the topic "Breast Health... *Hinemlu' Famalao'an*," with guests Dr. Daniel Lamar, Family Medicine; Dr. Gary Ramsey, OB-gynecologist; and Trina Sablan, DPH Non-Communicable Disease Bureau.

Both programs will air from 6:30pm to 7:30pm on MCV Ch. 14. The program also rebroadcasts on the Internet on Betelnut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com). Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzaleslive@gmail.com). (PR)

Free workshop on parole-in-place applications

Micronesian Legal Service Corp.'s Marianas office will be

hosting two workshops to help people prepare extensions for parole-in-place applications. The first workshop is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 28, at 1pm and the second one will be at 3pm on the same day.

It is only for those that have already been granted humanitarian parole and need to extend. Although MLSC will conduct the workshop to help people understand the process, no individual legal advice will be given. Each workshop will be conducted in English, each workshop is limited by the capacity of the auditorium at the American Memorial Park. If there is no auditorium seats available, the session will be closed. For more information call 234-6243 or 234-7729.

Marriage Encounter's Weekend Renewal on Thursday

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter graduated 17 new couples from the Fall Weekend, which took place on Oct. 19-21, 2012. The presenting team consisted of Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Tom and Erica Thornburgh, Charlie and Esther Keone (Guam) and Ray and Fina Fernandez (Guam). All Encountered couples are being invited to join the M.E. community at the Weekend Renewal on Thursday, Oct. 25, 2012, 6pm at the Kanoa Resort, Century Tours' conference room. For newly encountered couples, this is your final presentation of the Weekend. Refreshments are most welcome; bring any to share. For more information contact Jun and Linda Pangelinan at 288-3482. (PR)

**Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government**

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP13-OPA-019

Submission Date: November 19, 2012 Time: 2:00 P.M.

"TO CONDUCT FINANCIAL AND/OR PERFORMANCE OF AUDITS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES OF THE CNMI"

The single audit guidelines and specifications may be picked up at the Public Auditor's main office at 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan during normal working hours from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Rosaura D. Zapanta, Analyst Manager, at telephone numbers (670) 322-6481/2 or by facsimile to (670) 322-7812.

Preference is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. The application must be submitted with the proposal if preference is claimed.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals, in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfections in the best interest of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Michael Pai
Public Auditor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, P&S

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Sound moral character

More information and applications can be found at www.sablan.house.gov, or by calling 670-323-2647 in Saipan, 532-2647 in Rota, or 433-2647 in Tinian. Applications are due December 14, 2012.

Paid for with official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives

Enforcement Task Force underway

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos unveiled the Enforcement Task Force plan during the leadership meeting at the governor's conference room Tuesday last week.

The ETF, as presented by Department of Commerce Secretary Sixto K. Igisomar, laid out a very optimistic plan. The current ad hoc task force committee members are expected and charged to implement a plan within two to three months starting by end of November, and initiate the first field visit before the start of the second quarter of 2013.

Members of the ETF ad hoc committee include Igisomar, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Labor Secretary Gil San Nicolas, and WIA executive director

Edith Deleon Guerrero.

According to Igisomar, the first item on the agenda would be planning and assessment during the first couple of months, then eventually fieldwork by the third to fourth month. The beginning and planning phase includes overall inventory of permits, certificates, licenses, as well as consolidation of forms, checklist, vehicles, staffing, legal support, and so on.

"The idea is to group our enforcement officers together and consolidate our resources and capacity," stated Fitial. "It is our intention to canvas the island and hopefully find only a handful of non-compliances, if not zero, as the businesses and public will be informed well ahead of time before we

get out on the field."

Fitial also informed the leadership that the ETF has always been a plan of action for the administration and applauds the ad hoc committee members. Echoing the governor and lieutenant governor, Rep. Ramon Basa applauded Commerce and the ad hoc committee members, but stressed the importance of making sure that Commerce and the Commonwealth Development Authority do not lose sight of the significance of looking for outside investors or looking for other ways to increase investments or the CNMI tax base.

The ad hoc team assembled by the administration is the same team responsible for initiating the CNMI Prevailing Wage &

Workforce Assessment Survey in late 2011. The PWWAS is now complete with the publication of the Prevailing Wage part on April 30, and the Workforce Assessment part in September 2012.

"With the new ETF charge or task to this phenomenal group, I am always happy to contribute to anything that brings positive movement in our community," stated WIA's Deleon Guerrero.

"People may not realize, but sometimes someone has to do the not so grandiose plan, but yet significantly imperative to the interconnectivity of our economic fabrics and contributing to the greater scales of economic sustainability, innovation, and expansion," added Igisomar. *(Office of the Governor)*

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 23, 2000

Lack of information hinders flow of grants to NMI

CNMI officials attending a workshop with federal representatives in San Francisco have underscored the need for free-flowing information regarding availability of U.S. grants that can be applied on the islands. Nearly \$600 million were appropriated by the federal government in FY 99 alone to four insular areas—the Northern Marianas, Guam, U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa, according to officials. But Commonwealth leaders have maintained only a portion of these cash resources went to the CNMI due to the fact that limited information is coming out to advise the island government of their availability.

Additional funding for Rota airport eyed

House Vice Speaker Alejo Mendiola on Friday announced additional federal funding may yet be allocated for improvements of the Rota International Airport under the Transportation Appropriations Bill which is up for enactment in the American capital. Rota is expected to receive an additional \$1.25 million under the federal legislation, said Mr. Mendiola in a media statement. "The money is in addition to the \$11 million in Covenant construction funds we receive every year from the Congress." The vice speaker said the new funding will maximize the benefit derived by the CNMI government from its limited public works budget. "It also will not diminish the amount of money available to the CNMI for other airport work from the Aviation Trust Fund."

Oct. 23, 2001

PSS seeks data collection funds

The Public School System is seeking \$25,000 to enhance its record-keeping capabilities as the sole agency tasked to manage the education records of some 12,900 public and private school students in the CNMI. The school system, which is both the State and Local Education Agency for the insular area, is needing financial assistance to implement an accessible, automated system of reporting student and staff National Center for Education Statistics data. The data is an essential reference used by policy makers in decision-making activities concerning the local education sector.

CRM plans to cut watersports on Saipan lagoon

Despite the faltering economy worsened by a drop in tourism activities, the Coastal Resources Management remained steadfast on its plan to reduce watersport operations if a study would show that they degrade marine quality. Joaquin D. Salas, CRM acting administrator, revealed that an in-house study is now on track to determine the effect of the water activities on the entire Saipan Lagoon. At the same time, Salas said that the CRM is working with the United States Army Corps of Engineers on a separate set of studies on the lagoon, known as the "Saipan Lagoon Aquatic Restoration Project."

Oct. 23, 2002

DOF limits purchases to \$500 or less

Underscoring the rigorous need to cut back on operational expenses, the Department of Finance has implemented a measure that would limit purchase requisitions for open accounts to \$500 or less. This is just the latest of a series of stringent cost-cutting measures being implemented by the Babauta administration to shore up shrinking government coffers. In a memorandum to all department and activity heads, Finance Secretary Frank B. Villanueva said his office has been receiving quite a number of purchase requisitions for open accounts, in varying amounts, particularly for food items, office supplies, and operational supplies. Some of the amounts are as high as \$2,500, he said.

Chances dim on finding \$600K for HPMP

With the clock winding down to a close on the \$600,000 payment that Group Health and Life Insurance has to remit to its third-party administration this Friday, chances of finding the money on time just seem to get dimmer and dimmer. This, after Gov. Juan N. Babauta said that finding the money to make the payment is just a "temporary" solution to this problem. "I think the Legislature is trying to help out but obviously, we're having problems with cash flow and so, I think finding the money would be a temporary solution and I think we should be looking beyond that to a more permanent, long-term solution to the health insurance program for government employees," said Babauta.

Over \$14,000 in prizes!



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Weekly Drawing Dates:

October 06, 13, 20, 27, 2012

November 03, 10, 17, 24, 2012

December 01, 08, 15, 2012

FINAL GRAND PRIZE DRAWING
Sunday, December 16

Pacific investment conference to feature conservation, sustainable dev't

Promoting sustainable development and advocating the adoption of a greener economic model has become a long-term challenge for different countries, especially for archipelagos within Asia-Pacific that rely heavily on critical ecosystems for their source of living whether di-

rectly and indirectly. In order to address the growing realization that conventional methods of resources development are no longer the most effective means of safeguarding sustainability of resources, the 12th Pacific Region Investment Conference slated for Nov. 15 to 16, 2012 in Manila, Philip-

pinas will discuss and explore more suitable approaches that would lead to a more "Green or Blue" Economic Model.

With this year's theme: "The Future Steward: Promoting global sustainability through socially responsible investing," the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies, a non-profit

organization whose mission is to raise the level of standards of practice among fiduciaries in the Asia Pacific region, is set to discuss the latest trends and advancements in regional conservation and sustainable development initiatives.

APAFS has gathered a panel of experts for a session titled

"Island Leadership on Global Challenges" to discuss the current issues in both economic and environmental areas. It will be addressed by a panel of speakers and proponents of the Micronesia Challenge Initiative (www.micronesiachallenge.org) composed of William Kostka of Micronesia Conservation Trust, Elbuechel Sadang of Palau Conservation Society, Ricky Carl and Umiich Sengebau



Kostka

of The Nature Conservancy Micronesia Program, Dr. Peter Houk of the Pacific Marine Resources Institute, and Clarinda Ziegler of the Palau Protected Areas Network Fund.

"In the light of this year's conference theme, we are pleased to have a group of environmental experts on board to share their success stories regarding their initiatives in advancing the 'Green/Blue Economy.' We see that pushing for both sustainable development and growing investment returns are not mutually exclusive. This could also mean widespread awareness of the islands' ongoing initiatives and a directly proportion-

al expansion to the tourism of the countries in the Asia Pacific region," says APAFS executive director Daniel Roland.

In conjunction with the 12th Annual Pacific Region Investment Conference, APAFS offers for the second year, the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® Training Program facilitated by fi360 on Nov. 13 and 14, 2012, in Manila. The AIF® Training Program gives attendees the ability

to earn the AIF® designation, which is the first and only designation that demonstrates knowledge and competency in the area of fiduciary responsibility.

APAFS is a Guam-based non-profit association whose mission is to raise the level of standards of practice among fiduciaries in the Asia Pacific region. APAFS members comprise central governments, government agencies, colleges and universities, and other institutional investors. APAFS is also an endorsed Country Sponsor authorized by the Global Investment Performance Standards Executive Committee to promote the GIPS standards. (APAFS)



Lions Club inducts new District 204 Region 2 officers

District 204 Governor Herbie Perez inducted the new Region 2 officers at the Fiesta Hall of Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan on Oct. 13.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI government recently acknowledged the Lions Clubs in the CNMI for humanitarian services to the community for over two decades now.

The recognition was done during the induction ceremony for the newly installed District 204 Region 2 officers at the Fiesta Hall of Hafadai Beach Hotel in Garapan last Oct. 13.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos commended the Lions for their "steadfast commitment and service" as well as exemplary contributions to the islands and its people.

The governor's special assistant, Danny Buniag, presented on their behalf a plaque of ap-

preciation to the Lions.

The Senate also had its own resolution for the Lions, which was presented by Sen. Jude Hofschneider.

"The Lions Club helps to restore sight by conducting vision screenings, equipping hospital and clinics, distributing medicine, and raising awareness about eye diseases. The Lions have also extended their commitment to sight conservation through countless local efforts and through their international 'Sight First Program,' which works to eradicate blindness," stated the resolution adopted on Oct. 11.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan served as the guest speaker and talked about co-sponsoring a U.S. legislation, H.R. 2139, recognizing Lions

Club nationally and internationally through a commemorative \$1 coin to mark the group's centennial, saying that 400,000 coins will be minted in 2017.

District 204 Governor Herbie Perez inducted the new Region 2 officers, namely Region II chair Ladyvir Canape, Zone 1 chair Ruth Torrecampo, assistant cabinet secretary Olivia Yana, assistant cabinet treasurer Nelida Atalig, assistant cabinet public relations officer Maria Annamae Adaza, assistant cabinet sergeant-at-arms Sancho Escobar.

Perez also inducted the co-chairpersons, and they are Lolita Velasco, cultural and community activities; Agripino Buensalido, environmental awareness; Noemi Catigan and Erlinda Arriola, youth camp

and exchange program; Elizabeth Escobar, women's membership; Apollo M. Madiaga, information technology; Mario Mayuga, district convention and alert for Saipan; and Eli Arago, chair for public relations and Lions information.

In her remarks, Perez reminded her fellow Lions that they are all leaders in their district and they need to consciously focus on new ideas, develop action plans, and share responsibility to ensure that their plans are fulfilled.

"This journey is not mine alone but our journey together in a world of service," said Perez.

There are three Lions Clubs on Saipan: the Saipan Fil-Am Lions Club, Saipan Unity Lions Club, and Saipan Marianas Lions Club.

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GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ World Cafe	6975	Luisa Domingo
GC- Lunch Buffet for 2 @ ISLA Cafe	5840	Elizabeth G.
GC- fr. Cosmos - \$20.00	6410	Estelita Macale
GC- fr. Cosmos - \$20.00	0782	Prescilla Cabrera
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	2105	Jennelyn Roque
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	5544	Jeffrey Nicdao
GC- fr. D&Q - \$20.00	2824	Frank Cabrera
GC- fr. Chambre Bar - \$20.00	2281	Ilaijah Fitial

Winners must present their coupons to the Kanoa Resort front desk to receive prize.

Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Why aren't candidates debating climate change?

The past 12 months have been the hottest on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Throughout the nation, drought, wildfires, floods and other extreme weather have made global warming a visible reality.

So it was maddening—and tragic—that both presidential candidates spent significant time during Tuesday's debate trying to one-up each other on how much more fossil fuels they plan to extract, burn and allow into the atmosphere. In three debates so far, climate change hasn't been mentioned once.

If the nation, and the world, doesn't get serious about climate change—like, right now—the jobs of the future are at serious risk. Unfortunately, as MSNBC's Chris Hayes pointed out, future farmers of America whose crops will be destroyed by climate change are too young to vote in this election. Then again, if climate change isn't halted, jobs won't be the worst worry for future farmers—or nurses, or teachers, or factory workers. Survival will.

Yet there was former Gov. Mitt Romney challenging President Obama: "This has not been Mr. Oil, or Mr. Gas, or Mr. Coal," as if that were a bad thing. The president went right back at Romney, challenging his assertion that he "is a big coal guy," as if that were a good thing, and furthering the myth there is such a thing as "clean coal."

The bragging came after a question that also reflected a myth: that the president or the government has power over gas prices.

Gas prices are based on global demand. Period. No increase in domestic oil production will lower them. No pipeline will either, especially not the Keystone XL—if it is built. Gas will be coursing close to our precious water aquifers, moving from Canada to Texas en route to China. Neither fracking nor drilling on federal lands will make a difference. "Energy independence" is a phantom. Global warming is not.

Certainly, Obama and the Democrats offer a more forward-thinking energy policy than Romney and the Republicans. Romney has hitched his policy to the extraction industry (which has effectively promoted climate-change denial). For his part, Obama does support increased fuel efficiency for cars, which will save Americans money since they will use less high-priced gas. He supports the tax credits that make it feasible for private companies to produce actual "clean" energy technology like solar, wind and biofuels. (Romney does not.)

But the political necessity to frame renewable energy as part of a jobs program, rather than a necessary response to the most pressing issue of our time, does the country a disservice.

An organization called Climate Silence (climatesilence.org) is offering graphics for concerned voters to use on social media as part of a campaign to demand that it be asked. It's surely an appropriate question for Monday's final debate on foreign policy: climate change is a national security threat greater than any we have ever faced.

©2012 Philadelphia Daily News



Arms control should be high on president's agenda

By STEVEN PIFER and MICHAEL O'HANLON
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The presidential campaign has focused primarily on the economy and domestic issues, with foreign policy receiving relatively little attention—especially if it doesn't involve the tumultuous Middle East.

One foreign policy issue that shouldn't be ignored is arms control. The president in 2013—whether it's Barack Obama or Mitt Romney—will have an opportunity to use arms control to make the United States and the world safer.

With the New START arms deal now in force, the strategic nuclear balance between the U.S. and Russia is stable. But we shouldn't settle for that. The nuclear arsenals of Russia and other countries still hold thousands of weapons that could be turned against us or our allies. And, over the last 15 years, the number of nuclear-armed states has increased by three, with Iran perhaps on the verge.

There are three important things the next president could do to reduce the nuclear threat.

First, he should push for a new arms control agreement with Moscow that would further reduce the number of Russian strategic nuclear warheads capable of striking the United States. A new agreement could also cut the sizable numerical advantage that Russia holds in nonstrategic—or tactical—nuclear weapons. These more portable weapons pose a special concern to our allies in Europe and Asia. An agreement should also focus on methods for monitoring warheads in storage. That could help with future rounds of arms control with other nuclear powers and reduce the risk of loose nukes getting into the wrong hands.

A second focus of the president in the next few years will be the necessary task of deciding whether and how to recapitalize the strategic triad—the ballistic missile submarines, strategic missiles and bombers that make up U.S. strategic forces. New ballistic missile submarines, for example, would cost in the neighborhood of \$6 billion to \$7 billion each, and that doesn't include the cost of the missiles they would carry. The overall annual nuclear budget is somewhere between \$20 billion and \$40 billion, depending on how you count. Arms control, by reducing the number of new strategic weapon systems the United States has to build, could save money, which could then fund things that the military is far more likely to need—or it could be put to reducing the deficit.

Third, as the U.S. continues to reduce its nuclear arsenal, the ability of American diplomacy to raise the bar against nuclear proliferation will be bolstered. We will have set an example to the world that

giving up nuclear weapons doesn't mean sacrificing security. That probably won't affect decision-making in countries such as North Korea or Iran, but it will make it easier to enlist other countries to apply pressure and sanctions against those countries or against any other state that was to consider acquiring nuclear weapons. The general sense that Washington and Moscow are reducing their arsenals is crucial diplomatically for achieving this goal.

Advancing these three goals should start with seeking a new negotiation with Russia aimed at reducing each side's nuclear arsenal to between 2,000 to 2,500 total nuclear warheads—strategic and nonstrategic. That would result in a significant reduction, but would still leave the United States and Russia each with nuclear forces an order of magnitude larger than any other country.

The president in 2013 should also pursue a cooperative NATO-Russia missile defense arrangement. This would be something short of a binding treaty, but would still be specific enough to allow for a better defense of Europe against a ballistic missile attack and for eliminating the missile defense issue as an impediment to cooperation on further nuclear reductions. Of course, Russia might balk at such agreements. But it, too, has financial incentives to reduce offensive arms as well as strategic incentives to have clarity about U.S. missile defenses.

Finally, the president in 2013 should gauge the political feasibility of Senate approval of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which 157 nations have already ratified. If a two-thirds vote seems possible, the president should push hard for it. The U.S. stockpile stewardship program has demonstrated that our nuclear arsenal can remain safe and reliable without testing. This was reaffirmed by a recent National Academy of Sciences study. A worldwide ban on testing would pose a huge obstacle to states that want to join the nuclear ranks or to nuclear powers trying to perfect more advanced weapons.

Arms control will provide the president in 2013 with an important opportunity. As we mark the 50th anniversary of the Cuban missile crisis this month, the United States and Russia thankfully do not stand at another nuclear brink, but they do still have a very considerable interest in seizing this opportunity.

Steven Pifer and Michael O'Hanlon are senior fellows at the Brookings Institution and authors of The Opportunity: Next Steps in Reducing Nuclear Arms. Pifer was U.S. ambassador to Ukraine and an arms control official at the U.S. State Department; O'Hanlon previously worked on nuclear weapons issues at the Congressional Budget Office. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Rooty

November 2009, we wrote the following to bid a friend farewell, at the same time we thought we were getting to the bottom of our inkwell. (In a manner of speaking. We gave up the ink when we started fingering the keys to a Smith Corona in High School; t'was more like the end of our finger hacking days for the OpEd page.) "This is my penultimate submission for this year," I wrote. "My valedictory article(s) will come next week. After that, should I ever pick up on doing social commentary again, it will surely be in honor and in the fearless tradition of Ruth L. Tighe, *On My Mind!* Thank you, Ruth, and let the 'goodbyes' come when they come!"

This is just after she went into a determined survival mode, given a medical prognosis of three-to-six more months. She commented over lunch that if I had meant to eulogize her existence, it was probably premature.

That was almost three years ago, and she was right. It was premature in time, but not in sentiment, which evidently a broad audience on island, and elsewhere, shared. We had other occasions to mention her in our reflections, and she never hesitated to send us a note when she found our musing helpful, or our syntax beyond awkward hilarity. She even let it pass when we playfully addressed her "Rooty."

She was 81 when she parted with her oxygen tank last Wednesday. But in her mind, she did not hesitate to get to the "root of the matter," and write about it in detail with abject obedience to clear facts and telling it straight from the shoulder.

Her column was dropped from the OpEd page on our first foray to print. The stated rationale was that the column was online a day or two before it is printed in the paper, and that made it redundant. Fair enough, save the publisher at lunch inadvertently spilled the news that one of our politicians associated with the paper disagreed

with the tone and content of Ruth's column.

I resigned.

At another lunch, with the publisher who had then become a friend, I was asked if I would get back to writing. Having two of my pieces canned by the previous publisher for not being up to standards (read, content too controversial or not in line with interested parties' thoughts), I suggested that I would write pro bono if the publisher promised never to can any of my submissions. We got a deal!

Ruth agreed on our continuing to write, as well. She did not know I resigned over her case. But she encouraged us to keep writing if only because our unorthodox style apropos to the time's stream-of-consciousness mode got noticed, and she promised to keep her blue pencil distant and away unless we really fell into repetitious egregious syntax!

"So Rooty, the time has come for the 'goodbyes'. There are plenty getting uttered and more under many breaths. Ruth L. Tighe, you had cast both a laser beam on subjects, as well as scythed a wide swath over Commonwealth issues, so you were widely read and highly regarded."

But we are not done. For though we snuffed one of four candles that burn on our window sill every weekend designating our "lifting up unto our consciousness" four friends medically challenged who received warnings on time limits, Ruth writing the final thread *in her mind* plumbs us back to the depth of the abyss of our own existence and its own terminus.

In our journey as the human specie, we are conditioned to take death as a negative occurrence, as if it should not happen, or when it does, it perforce becomes an occasion of grief.

Good grief! In Rooty's case, we have 81 years worth of life's affirmation. From a journey out of embattled Germany in '31, through

By **JAIME R. VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.

NYC and Columbia U, to the ripples of the Saipan Lagoon disturbed only by such mundane issues as the setting up of libraries, and more recently, of hastily put together public budgets, intransigent public administrations particularly to matters pertaining to retirement, and the highly questionable behavior of a sitting governor who seem oblivious to both the letter and spirit of the law, Rooty was quick to set perspective to paper, sometimes scathing, other times, funny, but always illuminating of the burning issue at hand.

There are many religious metaphors used among residents of the Commonwealth at times like this, not the least of which is the parade of saints as they go marching in, or finding the crimson line of the prayerful divines, or seeing one's likeness among the hero's thousand faces, or/and there the old standby of the skies opening to the heavenly hosts singing in full complement of a symphony, the *Hallelujah Chorus*.

Ours is not a sadness of a passing, but a celebration of a completion, of a life well and fully lived. Rooty, with what we imagine could only be a jigger of scotch on the table, went gently into the night.

I thank you for having crossed paths along the way. Fly, butterfly, fly!

Why does 'CEO' mean 'white male'?

By **K.C. COLE**

LOS ANGELES TIMES

A pedestrian holding a map approaches you and asks for directions. You engage in a short conversation, which is briefly interrupted when two workers walk between you carrying a door. A second later, you continue your conversation.

What you don't notice is that the pedestrian is now someone else. Yep, that's right: A different person took his place when the door passed between you. And you didn't even notice. In fact, fully 50 percent of people who participated in this 1998 experiment by psychologist Daniel Simons were blind to the switch.

Why did so many people fail to notice such an obvious change? Because we see what we expect to see, and we don't expect to see people we're chatting with morph suddenly into other people. The "default assumption" is that they stay the same.

It's like that old riddle about the man who drives his son to a baseball game, and the car gets stuck on the railroad tracks. A train comes, the father is killed but the child survives, though in critical condition. When paramedics get him to the hospital, the doctor says: "I can't operate on this boy; he's my son."

To this day, people come up with explanations such as alien abduction to solve the "who's the doctor" riddle rather than simply recognizing that it's the boy's mother. The default assumption says doctors are men.

Default assumptions are great fodder for fooling people, a type of illusion that catches the brain in the act of jumping to conclusions.

But they also can have serious consequences, from derailing careers in science to putting innocents on death row.

For example, a recent study out of Yale revealed that identical applications for a laboratory job were judged quite differently depending on whether the applicant was male or female. The mythical "John" received substantially more offers—and more money—than the mythical "Jennifer." A report several years ago from the National Science Foundation found a similar pattern: In order to be judged as productive as similar male applicants, female post-docs had to publish an average of three more papers in prestigious journals or 20 more in less-known publications.

Our default assumptions tell us that scientists are men, so that's what we're primed for. And we don't even know we're doing it.

Try this experiment: Quickly picture in your mind's eye a doctor, an airline pilot, a CEO, a hedge fund manager, a newspaper editor, an engineer. Most people's mental picture will quickly register tall white men. If we're in charge of filling one of these jobs, we're usually unaware of what our brains have already decided. A short black woman, a fat person or someone in a wheelchair is highly unlikely to be chosen.

Even if you know a short black female CEO or a guy in a wheelchair who's a physicist, you probably won't revise your default assumption. You'll consider these cases "exceptions."

The same insidious assumptions explain in part why blacks are more than twice as likely to be sent to death row than whites, even when the evidence is equally compelling, and especially if the jury is all white. Even more telling, the blacker the suspect's skin and the more stereotypically African his features, the more likely he is to be

judged to be what Stanford psychologist Jennifer Eberhardt called "deathworthy."

Perhaps the most remarkable finding from the "switched pedestrian" experiment was that people had a much harder time distinguishing switches when the person asking for directions was different from themselves—in other words, students had a harder time telling the difference between two middle-aged academics than they did people of their own age group; when the pedestrian was dressed as a construction worker, the perceived class difference made him harder to distinguish. We really do see "them" as "all looking alike."

Having default assumptions doesn't make us bad, just human. We can't get rid of them entirely. But we can recognize how they skew our judgment and take steps to mitigate the problem and even correct for it, just as you correct when you know your car pulls to the right.

For example, we can replace names with initials on job applications, make sure juries are diverse and have sufficient numbers of role models for minority groups in fields such as science to work against a tendency to see them as exceptions. As black, Latino or female scientists become a more normal part of the landscape, default assumptions lose power.

That kind of change won't help anyone outwit the sneaky experimenter who wants to play mind games with you by switching people under your nose. But it could help us outwit our own default assumptions in cases where it matters so much more.

K.C. Cole is a professor of journalism at the University of Southern California and a former science writer at the Los Angeles Times.

Politicians should stop playing chicken with voters

By **JOHN B. ANDERSON**

FAIRVOTE

It's election time, and once again we're hearing an epithet so often applied to third-party presidential candidates: "spoiler."

I heard it in 1980, when my face was pinned on dart boards by angry Democrats who accused me of helping Ronald Reagan beat Jimmy Carter. Ross Perot and Ralph Nader were also attacked for daring to introduce new ideas and approaches to voters.

This year's targets are former New Mexico Gov. Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party, former Virginia Congressman Virgil Goode of the Constitution Party and the Green Party's Jill Stein. As former Republicans, Johnson and Goode have faced particularly vigorous efforts to deny them spots on state ballots. All three candidates were blocked from participating in presidential debates.

The problem is that under current state laws, presidential candidates are able to win all of a state's electoral votes with a minority of the vote. In 1992, Ross Perot's strong performance led to only one state being won with more than 50 percent of the vote. In 2000, Al Gore lost Florida and the presidency by 537 votes even as Ralph Nader won more than 181 times that margin in the state.

Finger-pointing about "spoilers" happens in states too. The most

surprising example is in Maine, where the Democrats' U.S. Senate nominee trails a Republican and independent Angus King. Now some Democrats are asking their nominee to drop out in order to avoid a vote-split—well aware that in 2010, a Republican defeated a moderate independent with just 39 percent, with the Democrat again in the "spoiler" role in third.

Because of the potential of split votes, plurality voting forces many Americans to vote for a lesser choice candidate rather than one they actually want. Voters who refuse to compromise may perversely help elect the candidate they dislike the most. Either way, they lose.

It's time for major party leaders to stop playing chicken with voters and instead uphold majority rule with a straightforward reform. Instant runoff voting (IRV) would allow Americans to achieve the basic goal of representative democracy—electing the candidate with the most support—while ending the concept of "spoiler."

With IRV, voters get to rank candidates in order of choice: first, second and third. A candidate can win with a majority of first choices. If there's no majority winner, the last place candidate is eliminated, and that candidate's backers have their votes added to the totals of their compromise choice. This process continues

until there's a majority winner.

IRV is a proven voting method. It's used to elect Ireland's president, London's mayor and Australia's House of Representatives. American cities using IRV include Oakland, Calif.; San Francisco; Minneapolis; St. Paul, Minn.; and Portland, Maine. New voting machines are making IRV all the easier to implement.

Traditional runoffs provide another reform option. States could hold a September first round and a November runoff between the top two candidates. Runoffs are more costly and complicated than asking voters to indicate a second and third choice, but still better than the status quo.






So the next time you hear a politician talk about "spoilers," tell them to stop complaining and start standing up for voters. Major party leaders have nothing to fear if truly believing in their own ability to win electoral majorities. Let's have IRV in our presidential elections by 2016.

John B. Anderson, a former congressman from Illinois, was an independent candidate for president in 1980 and serves on the board of FairVote, a nonpartisan electoral reform organization. Readers may write to him at FairVote, 6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 610, Takoma Park, Md. 20912; website: www.fairvote.org.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°	▲ 88° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Majuro	Sunny	▲ 88 ▼ 81

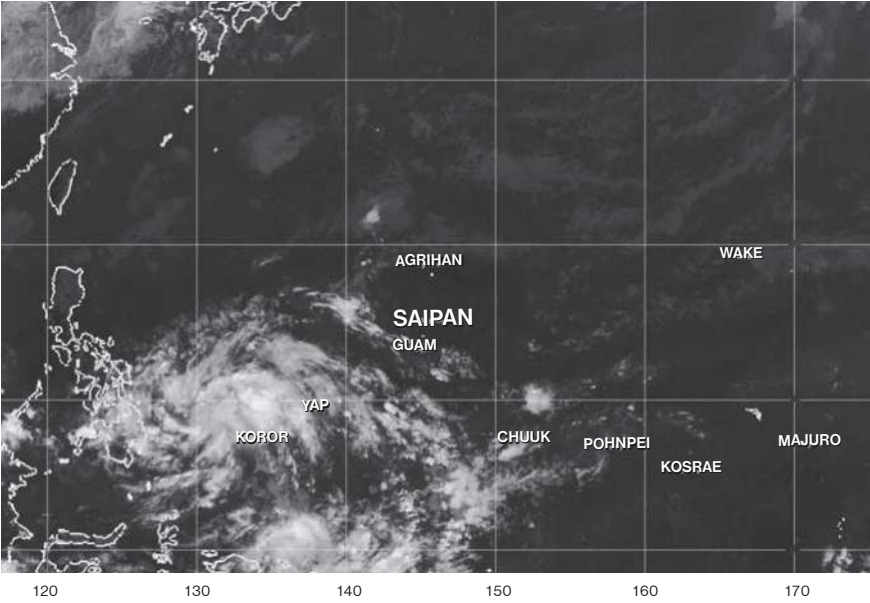
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 47
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 70 ▼ 40
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 73
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 54
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 55
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲ 90 ▼ 79
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 55
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 83 ▼ 75
New York	Sunny	▲ 67 ▼ 50
Osaka	Rain	▲ 69 ▼ 55
Paris	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 50
Pusan	Sunny	▲ 68 ▼ 50
Rome	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 59
Salem	Showers	▲ 52 ▼ 38
San Francisco	Rain	▲ 59 ▼ 55
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 49
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 71 ▼ 54
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 53

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
1:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
9:07 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
4:25 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
10:26 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A developing tropical depression west-northwest of Koror near 8N133E is helping to generate a large area of scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms in the Republic of Palau and western Yap state from 7N to 13N and west of 141E. Strongest activity is occurring within 150 miles of the circulation's center south of this area. Weak westerly winds are allowing for some pockets of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from the equator to 5N between 130E and 143E elsewhere. Drier trade-winds prevail through out the area. Surface convergence along the north side of a weak trough south of Chuuk and Pohnpei is generating some scattered showers with a few thunderstorms from 4N to 6N between 147E and 156E. Low-level cloudiness and scattered showers associated with an early season series of shear lines are found in the vicinity of Guam and also just north of the Northern Marianas between 19N and 22N from 140E to 162E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Thursday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:17 PM	12:21 AM
Wednesday	2:01 PM	1:15 AM
Thursday	2:42 PM	2:08 AM
Friday	3:21 PM	2:59 AM
Saturday	4:00 PM	3:48 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
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- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 23, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana				ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				Tinian-Saipan			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
				FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Island Snapshots



ANTI-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ADVOCATES

Tinian held a Domestic Violence Awareness Parade from the Tinian Health Center to the gym on Oct. 19, 2012. NHS and NJHS members gathered to perform skits with messages relating to domestic violence in relationships and families. Here, members hold up shirts that they designed to promote awareness of the issue.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

From left, Nola Hix of Xerox Corp., Marivic Rosario of Island Viewers, Catherine Licop, Joyce Concepcion, and Anita Taracatac of Pacific Saipan have their picture taken with John Hirsh from the American Red Cross during a recent donation for the CNMI Operation Homefront Support.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy 14th birthday Juan I. Quitugua Jr.! May your day be filled with joy and may you have many birthdays to come. We love you! Greetings come from Mommy, Daddy, and Dexter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Belated happy 15th birthday to Ernest Sablan Jr. May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come. Greetings come from Brittney, Juan Jr., and Dexter.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



ROUNDTrip TICKETS

United Airlines account manager Marissa del Rosario presents two roundtrip United Economy tickets worth \$3,400 to Saipan Chamber of Commerce's Richard A. Pierce and Janice Tenorio for the Chamber's 5th Annual Golf Tournament. The airline tickets will be used as raffle prizes at this year's two-man best ball scramble on Oct. 27, 2012, at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort. Contact SCC at 233-7150, or email coordinator@saipanchamber.com for registration and details.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



MATHCOURT BETS

Green Meadow School president Mila Merjilla, far right, joins teachers and participants in the Mathcourt event held on Oct. 20, 2012, at the William S. Reyes Elementary School. From left, teachers Liz Espiritu and Liza Quiambao, students Joseph Yanto, En Ming Cacdac, and Pionnah Gregorio. Congratulations to Cacdac for winning second place in the competition.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

Japan trade hit by Europe crisis, China tensions

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's trade deficit widened in September as exports plunged 10.3 percent from a year earlier, weighed down by Europe's debt crisis and a surge in antagonisms with China that have damaged close economic ties.

The deficit for the month was 558.6 billion yen (\$7.2 billion), the Finance Ministry said Monday, higher than the forecasts of many analysts and bigger than a deficit of about \$3.7 billion a year earlier. The deficit in Au-

gust was \$9.6 billion.

The trade figures came as Japan's central bank governor, Masaaki Shirakawa, warned that the risk of shocks to the financial system from the debt crisis in Europe remains high, while slowing global growth is hitting manufacturing and exports.

"We must remain fully vigilant toward market developments," Shirakawa told a quarterly meeting of the bank's regional managers.

September's exports totaled 5.4 trillion yen (\$68.7 billion). Imports rose 4 percent from a year earlier to 5.9 trillion yen (\$75.9 billion), inflated by additional imports of oil and other fuels for power generation as most nuclear reactors remain offline in the aftermath of last year's Fukushima nuclear disaster.

So far, Japan's trade deficit for 2012, according to the ministry's provisional figures, is about 4.73 trillion yen

(\$60.6 billion).

The ministry figures show exports to all regions falling, apart from a meager 0.4 percent year-on-year gain in shipments to North America. Exports to crisis-stricken Europe plummeted 26 percent.

A territorial dispute with China that sparked anti-Japanese riots in September took a heavy toll, with exports to China sinking 14 percent from a year earlier to 953.4 billion yen (\$12.2 billion). Imports from China climbed 3.8 percent to 1.28 trillion yen (\$16.4 billion).

The rise in antagonisms over

disputed islands in the East China Sea has been especially hard on the auto industry. Auto exports fell 15 percent in September from the year before.

The strong Japanese yen has hurt the country's export competitiveness, while demand has evaporated as growth slowed in most regions. Exports of consumer electronics, a mainstay, fell by double-digit figures from a year earlier.

Resource-scarce Japan is almost entirely dependent on imported fuel, and it has long relied on robust exports of high-value consumer goods and industrial

products such as machine tools to help counter the cost of importing its energy needs.

With most of the country's nuclear plants shut down, manufacturers and utilities have increased their reliance on traditional energy sources such as oil and gas, while stepping up conservation and investments in renewable energy.

Boosted partly by higher prices, imports of fuels jumped 18 percent in September from a year earlier to 2.15 trillion yen (\$27.6 billion), accounting for more than a third of Japan's total imports.



In this Feb. 20, 2012 file photo, a cyclist passed by cars parked for export on a wharf at a port in Kawasaki near Tokyo. Japan reports its trade deficit widened in September, the third straight month of shortfalls, as exports plunged 10.3 percent from a year earlier.

Taxes go up in 2013 for 163 million workers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama isn't talking about it and neither is Mitt Romney. But come January, 163 million workers can expect to feel the pinch of a big tax increase regardless of who wins the election.

A temporary reduction in Social Security payroll taxes is due to expire at the end of the year and hardly anyone in Washington is pushing to extend it. Neither Obama nor Romney has proposed an extension, and it probably wouldn't get through Congress anyway, with lawmakers in both parties down on the idea.

Even Republicans who have sworn off tax increases have little appetite to prevent one that will cost a typical worker about \$1,000 a year, and two-earner family with six-figure incomes as much as \$4,500.

Why are so many politicians sour on continuing the payroll tax break?

Republicans question whether reducing the tax two years ago has done much to stimulate the sluggish economy. Politicians from both parties say they are concerned that it threatens the independent revenue stream that funds Social Security.

They are backed by powerful

advocates for seniors, including AARP, who adamantly oppose any extension.

"The payroll tax holiday was intended to be temporary and there is strong bipartisan support to let that tax provision expire," said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. "The continued extension of a temporary payroll tax holiday has serious long-term implications for Social Security and, frankly, it's not even clear that it has helped to boost our ailing economy."

The question of renewing the payroll tax cut has been overshadowed by the expiration of a much bigger package of tax cuts first enacted under President George W. Bush. The Bush-era tax cuts also expire at the end of the year, and Congress is expected to try to address them after the election, in a lame-duck session.

The payroll tax cut could become part of the mix in negotiations that could go in many directions. But lawmakers in both political parties say they doubt it.

"I think there's a growing consensus that Congress and the president can't continue to divert such a critical revenue stream from Social Security,"

said Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, a senior Republican on the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee. "I think more and more Americans understand that that payroll tax cut, while politically appealing, is endangering Social Security."

Before he was named as Romney's running mate, Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., disparaged the payroll tax cut, calling it "sugar-high economics" that wouldn't promote long-term growth.

Social Security is funded by a 12.4 percent tax on wages up to \$110,100, rising to \$113,700 in 2013. Half is paid by employers and the other half is paid by workers. For 2011 and 2012, Congress and Obama cut the share paid by workers from 6.2 percent to 4.2 percent.

A worker making \$50,000 saved \$1,000 a year, or a little more than \$19 a week. A worker making \$100,000 saved \$2,000 a year.

The beauty of the tax cut is that it shows up in weekly paychecks, giving workers more money to spend or save. The downside is that some workers may not notice a \$19-a-week increase in pay, making them unlikely to credit the politicians who made it happen.

China's new leaders face tough economic choices

BEIJING (AP)—China's economic model that delivered three decades of double-digit growth is running out of steam and the country's next leaders face tough choices to keep incomes rising. But they don't seem to have ambitious solutions. Even if they do, they will need to tackle entrenched interests with backing high in the Communist Party.

The cost of inaction could be high. The World Bank says without change, annual growth could sink to 5 percent by 2015 - dangerously low by Chinese standards. Some private sector analysts give even gloomier warnings.

The government's own advisers say it needs to promote service industries and consumer spending, shifting away from reliance on exports and investment. That will require opening more industries to entrepreneurs and forcing cosseted state companies to compete. State banks would have to lend more to private business that is starved for credit.

The ruling party's latest five-year development plan promises reforms in broad terms. Premier Wen Jiabao apologized at a news conference in March for not moving fast enough and vowed quicker action. But many changes could face opposition from China's most influential factions—state companies, their allies in the party,

bureaucrats and local leaders.

"If the challenge is, can they do radical reform all at once, we know that won't happen because these leaders aren't powerful enough," said Scott Kennedy, director of Indiana University's Research Center for Chinese Politics & Business in Beijing. "They are facing interests which wouldn't possibly allow that to occur."

Also at issue is how much Communist Party leaders are willing to cut back state industry that provides jobs and money to underpin the party's monopoly on power.

Li Keqiang is the man in line to lead reforms as the next premier, China's top economic official. Now a vice premier, Li is seen as a political insider with an easygoing style, not a hard-driving reformer. Along with the rest of the party's Standing Committee, the ruling inner circle due to be installed in November, Li will govern by consensus, which could blunt their force.

"They are under pressure to change the economy, but they will not demolish party control," said Mao Yushi, an 83-year-old economist who is one of China's most prominent reform advocates. He co-founded the Unirule Institute of Economics, an independent think tank in Beijing.

Li showed his political skills but little zeal for reform as gov-

ernor and later party secretary of populous Henan province in 1998-2004.

His time there coincided with several fatal fires—including a Christmas Day blaze at a nightclub in 2000 that killed 309 people—and efforts by local officials to suppress information about the spread of AIDS by a blood-buying industry. Other officials were punished for the fires but Li emerged unscathed and rose to national office.

"Li was known for not acting very aggressively in Henan, to put it charitably," said Dali Yang, a University of Chicago political scientist.

The man in line to become Communist Party leader and China's president, Xi Jinping, has a similar reputation for successful inaction.

In the 1990s, he served as party secretary of Zhejiang province, a thriving center for private business south of Shanghai, and won praise from observers including former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, who dealt with him as an investment banker. They lauded him not for spearheading change but for not tampering with Zhejiang's free-market success.

The next leadership will inherit one of the world's strongest economies but one in which advocates say reform is stalled.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Vietnam PM apologizes for mismanaging economy

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam's embattled prime minister has apologized to the nation for mismanaging the economy and is pledging to step up reforms. Nguyen Tan Dung was publicly rebuked last week by the Communist Party following a meeting of its central committee. Some reports suggested that he had survived a leadership challenge. The growth of Vietnam's

once-booming economy has slowed to around 5 percent this year. It has been dragged down by debt-ridden banks and inefficient state-owned enterprises.

Nissan recalling certain Altima vehicles

NEW YORK (AP)—Nissan is recalling certain model year 2012 and 2013 Altima vehicles that total about 13,900 because its bolts could become loose and fall out, increasing the risk of a car crash. The National High-

way Traffic Safety Administration says on its website that the vehicles may have been equipped with transverse link bolts and power steering rack bolts that were not torqued to proper specification. The vehicles were made from May 10 through July 26. Dealers will tighten the bolts to the proper specifications. The recall is expected to begin on or about Oct. 29. Owners with questions may call Nissan at 1-800-647-7261.

Nation

Obama, Romney allies square off on foreign policy

WASHINGTON (AP)—On the eve of their final presidential debate, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama—through their allies—squared off Sunday over which candidate would best protect the nation's interests and security abroad with just two weeks left in a race that polls show is increasingly tight.

Both candidates stayed largely out of view, preparing vigorously for their Monday face-off focused on foreign policy.

Republicans accused Obama of leaking word of possible negotiations with Iran in pursuit of political gain. Democrats shot

back, arguing that Romney and his party are the ones playing politics with national security.

The haggling played out on Sunday news shows at a critical time for Romney and Obama, whose marathon race has become exceedingly close as it lurches toward its November conclusion. Early and absentee voting are already under way in many of the most competitive states, upping the pressure on both candidates to lock in supporters.

Two weeks out, the race appears to be tied, with both candidates taking 47 percent

among likely voters in a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll released Sunday that reflected a boost of support for Romney following his lauded performance in the first debate in early October.

Romney's top supporters launched sweeping condemnations of Obama's handling of foreign policy, assailing him over a deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, and arguing that under the president's negligent watch, Iran has crept closer to obtaining a nuclear weapon.

Republican Sen. Rob Port-

man of Ohio, who played Obama in Romney's debate preparations, said a new report claiming the U.S. and Iran had agreed to direct negotiations seemed like "another example of a national security leak from the White House."

"They've done a lot of that," Portman said, alluding to accusations over the summer that Obama's administration was leaking information to bolster his political prospects ahead of the election. He was echoed by Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who called the timing of the report "pretty obvious."

The White House said Saturday that while it is prepared for direct talks with Iran, there's no current agreement to meet. On Sunday, Obama's backers credited him for isolating Iran within the global community and adopting effective sanctions that have crippled the Persian Gulf nation.

"For two years, the president traveled the world putting together a withering international coalition. And now the sanctions that they agreed on are bringing the Iranian economy to its knees," said David Axelrod, a senior Obama adviser. "They're feeling the heat. And that's what the sanctions were meant to do."

Romney, taking a break from debate prep Sunday in Delray Beach, Fla., declined to answer a reporter's question about whether he would be open to one-on-one talks with Iran.

ELECTION 2012

On foreign policy issues

Where the presidential candidates stand:

	Romney	Obama
Afghanistan War	Would withdraw troops in 2014, as currently scheduled, possibly keep troops longer if needed	Has set a 2014 timetable to pull most U.S. troops out; transition to mainly support role
Syria	Would arm the rebels trying to oust President Bashar Asad after identifying and organizing opposition forces who "share our values"	Providing nonlethal aid; working for diplomatic resolution, which has yet to materialize; helping third-parties supply small arms to rebels
Iraq	Says "America's ability to influence events for the better in Iraq has been undermined by the abrupt withdrawal of our entire troop presence."	Says "I pledged to end the war in Iraq honorably, and that's what we've done."
Iran's nuclear ambitions	Says he'd "put the leaders of Iran on notice" that U.S. and allies would use show of military force to halt Iran's effort to get nuclear capability	Has increased the economic sanctions; wants to keep all options, including military, on the table; urged Israel not to attack Iran
Israeli-Palestinian conflict	Wants to strengthen U.S. ties with Israel and help the Jewish state maintain its "strategic military edge"	Signed bill to expand military, civilian cooperation with Israel and U.S. support for negotiated two-state solution
Russia	Has called Russia America's "greatest geopolitical foe"; would review nuclear arms treaties	Signed 2010 nuclear arms reduction treaty; worked with Russia to impose economic sanctions on Iran

Source: CNN, Washington Post, AP, candidate websites
Graphic: Judy Treible, Robert Dorrell

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McGovern an unwavering, often unrequited, liberal

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP)—George McGovern was an unwavering, often unrequited advocate for liberal Democratic causes. He pursued those goals in plainspoken, usually understated, Midwestern style. He was a dedicated, decent man, a devoted Democrat even when the party establishment turned away from him in defeat.

He wasn't good at political gamesmanship. He suffered his worst blunders when he strayed from straight talk in his doomed 1972 presidential campaign. It didn't fit the man and it shook the credibility he treasured.

McGovern was a partisan without the poison that increasingly infected American politics. In his career-long quest for programs to feed the hungry, in the U.S. and worldwide, he worked in partnership with Bob Dole, a former Republican leader of the Senate, where

they'd both served.

During his years of political retirement—he lost his South Dakota Senate seat in 1980—McGovern remained active, lecturing, teaching and writing. He even waged a token presidential campaign in 1984. He'd also run briefly for the 1968 nomination after the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy.

In his 2011 book, "What It Means to Be a Democrat," he summed up his credo:

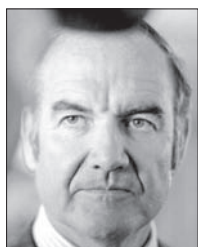
"Above all, being a Democrat means having compassion for others. ... It means standing up for people who have been kept down ..."

That was the essence of his program during four terms in the House, three in the Senate, and a doomed and crushed presidential campaign in 1972. By the time he was nominated for the White House, McGovern had been marginalized by

rivals in his own party, who argued that he was too far left to be elected. That probably was so, but President Richard M. Nixon was the overwhelming favorite against any Democratic challenger.

McGovern got just 37 percent of the vote to Nixon's 61, carrying only Massachusetts and the District of Columbia. Embittered, he considered whether to even stay in politics, especially as other Democrats made him a symbol of what ailed them and kept him off their stages. McGovernite became a label for losers. But he went back to the Senate, and within months he could joke ruefully about his landslide loss.

"I opened the doors of the Democratic Party and 20 million people walked out," McGovern later joked of his reform commission, which had broadened the nominating process, driven out the old party bosses and ultimately made the presidential primaries the arenas for choosing nominees of both parties.



McGovern

Dead man found at Calif. shooting wearing armor

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Police were nearly certain Sunday that a man found dead at the property where five members of a Southern California family were shot—two fatally—was the killer because he was wearing body armor, clutching a handgun and had a bullet hole in his head.

The loaded handgun was a .38 caliber revolver registered to 55-year-old Desmond John Moses, who lived in a bungalow set ablaze before the deadly shooting spree at his neighbor's house in Inglewood, said Police Lt. James Madia.

The body, burned beyond recognition, was found inside the bungalow late Saturday and an autopsy will determine whether it is Moses.

The dead man had "what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the head," wore body armor and carried additional ammunition

in his pockets, a police statement said.

While police couldn't conclude that the body is that of Moses until the autopsy is concluded, "the evidence suggests this is the case," the statement added.

The shooting rampage before dawn Saturday killed 33-year-old Filimon Lamas and his 4-year-old son. The father was shielding three of his children when he was shot, Police Chief Mark Fronterotta said. Lamas' 28-year-old wife, Gloria Jiminez, was shot in both legs but managed to carry the wounded 4-year-old out of the house.

Paramedics found her collapsed on the street. The child, who suffered a bullet wound to the head, died at a hospital.

Investigators believe Moses set his own home ablaze before entering the family's home around 4 a.m. wearing a dark

cap and a white painter's mask.

Authorities said he fired 10 times. In addition to the deaths of the father and child and injury to the mother, a 7-year-old girl was wounded in the chest and a 6-year-old boy suffered a bullet wound in the pelvis. An 8-year-old boy escaped injury.

The mother and daughter remained hospitalized in stable condition, Madia said. The 6-year-old boy was released.

Relatives said Lamas and Jiminez were high school sweethearts who recently got approval for a home loan, and were looking to buy a bigger house for their tight-knit family.

Authorities launched a manhunt and evacuated surrounding homes after the shooting rampage, but it wasn't until hours later that they found the charred body because it was hidden under layers of debris.

Police find fire, chaos at Wis. spa where 7 shot

BROOKFIELD, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin man who had been accused of domestic violence and slashing his wife's tires took a gun into the spa where she worked Sunday and shot seven women, three fatally, before killing himself, a police chief said.

The shootings set off a confusing, six-hour search for the gunman that locked down a nearby mall, a country club adjacent to the spa and the hospital where the survivors were taken. The search froze activity in a commercial area in Brookfield, a middle-to-upper class community west of Milwaukee, for much of the day. Ultimately, he was found dead in the spa.

Authorities said it would take time to sort out exactly what happened, and emphasized they were still interviewing witnesses and rescuers and did not have a firm timeline of events. At a news conference Sunday night, Mayor Steve Ponto called the shootings "a senseless act on

the part of one person."

The chaos started around 11 a.m. at the Azana Day Spa, a two-story, 9,000-square-foot building across from a major shopping mall. The first officers on the scene found the building filled with smoke from a fire authorities believe was set by the suspect, Radcliffe Franklin Haughton, 45, of Brown Deer, Brookfield Police Chief Dan Tushaus said.

They also found a 1-pound propane tank they initially thought might be an improvised explosive device, Tushaus said. That slowed the search of the building as law enforcement agents waited for a bomb squad to clear the scene.

Tushaus said later that police didn't know whether the gunman brought the propane tank to the spa or it was left by a contractor.

The search also was complicated by the layout of the building, with numerous small treatment rooms and several locked areas, Tushaus said. While of-

ficers initially thought the gunman had fled the building, they later found his body in one of the locked areas, he said.

The bodies of the victims were also found in the spa. Tushaus said investigators were still working to identify them. He said the four survivors were between the ages of 22 and 40. He didn't know if they were employees at the spa or customers, and it wasn't clear if the man's wife was among the victims.

Haughton had recently been arrested after witnesses identified him as the person who slashed his wife's tires, police said.

He appeared in court Thursday. A four-year restraining order was issued, and Haughton was ordered to turn any firearms over to the sheriff's department.

Haughton's father, Radcliffe Haughton Sr., spoke to a television station and The Associated Press shortly before police announced that they had found his son's body. In telephone interviews from Florida, he said he had last spoken to his son a few days ago, but didn't have any indication anything was wrong. He begged his son to turn himself in.



McGovern

Asia

Al-Qaida in Afghanistan is attempting a comeback

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A diminished but resilient al-Qaida, whose 9/11 attacks drew America into its longest war, is attempting a comeback in Afghanistan's mountainous east even as U.S. and allied forces wind down their combat mission and concede a small but steady toehold to the terrorist group.

That concerns U.S. commanders, who have intensified strikes against al-Qaida cells in recent months. It also undercuts an Obama administration narrative portraying al-Qaida as battered to the point of being a nonissue in Afghanistan as Western troops start leaving.

When he visited Afghanistan in May to mark the one-year anniversary of the U.S. raid that killed Osama bin Laden, President Barack Obama said his administration had turned the tide of war. "The goal that I set—to defeat al-Qaida, and deny it a chance to rebuild—is within reach," he said.

As things stand, however, an unquestionably weakened al-Qaida appears to have preserved at least limited means of regenerating inside Afghanistan as U.S. influence in the country wanes. The last U.S. combat troops are scheduled to be gone by Dec. 31, 2014, and security matters turned over to the Afghan government.

"They are trying to increase their numbers and take advantage of the Americans leaving," the police chief of Paktika province, Gen. Dawlat Khan Zadran,

said through a translator in an interview this month in the governor's compound. He mentioned no numbers, but said al-Qaida has moved more weapons across the border from Pakistan.

For years the main target of U.S.-led forces has been the Taliban, rulers of Afghanistan and protectors of al-Qaida before the U.S. invasion 11 years ago. But the strategic goal is to prevent al-Qaida from again finding haven in Afghanistan from which to launch attacks on the U.S.

Al-Qaida's leadership fled in late 2001 to neighboring Pakistan, where it remains.

The group remains active inside Afghanistan, fighting U.S. troops, spreading extremist messages, raising money, recruiting young Afghans and providing military expertise to the Taliban and other radical groups.

U.S. Gen. John Allen, the top commander of international forces in Afghanistan, has said al-Qaida has re-emerged, and although its numbers are small, he says the group doesn't need a large presence to be influential.

U.S. officials say they are committed, even after the combat mission ends in 2014, to doing whatever it takes to prevent a major resurgence. The Americans intend, for example, to have special operation forces at the ready to keep a long-term lid on al-Qaida inside Afghanistan.

"Al-Qaida could try to reconstitute itself, but they would do so at their own peril given the intense pressure they and other



In this July 22, 2012 file photo, U.S. Gen. John Allen, top commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) and US forces in Afghanistan gestures during an interview with the Associated Press in Kabul, Afghanistan.

terrorist groups are facing in Afghanistan," Pentagon press secretary George Little said Saturday.

A more immediate worry is the threat posed by the growing presence of al-Qaida and affiliated groups in Yemen, Somalia and across a broad swath of North Africa, where it is believed al-Qaida-linked militants may have been responsible for the attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya, that killed U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

U.S. and Afghan officials say al-Qaida also has been building ties with like-minded Islamic militant groups present in Afghanistan, including Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba, which is blamed for the November 2008 rampage in Mumbai, India, that killed 166 people, and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, which is present in the north.

Ahmadullah Mowahed, a member of the Afghan parliament from the eastern province of Nuristan, along the Pakistan border, said he fears the depar-

ture of American combat forces will open the way for the Taliban and al-Qaida to overwhelm the provincial government.

"As soon as they leave, the eyes of al-Qaida will quickly focus on Nuristan," he said.

U.S. analysts say there is reason for concern that al-Qaida is down, but not out.

"They've been hit hard in a few cases, but they definitely are involved in the fight—absolutely," said Seth G. Jones, a senior political scientist at RAND Corp.

Jones, a former adviser to the

commander of U.S. special operations forces in Afghanistan, recently returned from a trip to eastern Afghanistan where he learned that al-Qaida's support network has expanded and its relations with groups such as the Pakistani-based Haqqani network are strong.

"That's a very serious concern because that kind of environment would allow al-Qaida to continue to operate, at least at a small level, because it's a workable environment for them, he said.

Richard Barrett, head of a U.N. group that monitors the threat posed by al-Qaida and the Taliban, said al-Qaida fears the Taliban will strike a deal with the Afghan government that would make the group all but irrelevant.

"So they will be doing whatever they can to assert their influence, to assert their presence" in Afghanistan, he said.

At least for now, al-Qaida in Afghanistan has no capability to launch attacks on the U.S., although commanders are taking no chances.

Little-noticed fragmentary U.S. military accounts of raids and strikes against al-Qaida in the northeastern provinces of Kunar and Nuristan show the group retains a command structure inside Afghanistan. On May 27 the U.S. killed the No. 2 commander in Afghanistan, Saudi national Sakhr al-Taifi, in Kunar, but it has yet to catch up to the top al-Qaida commander in the country, identified by U.S. officials as Farouk al-Qahtani, who resides in Nuristan.

Myanmar president holds milestone 1st press briefing

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP)—Myanmar's reformist president held his first press conference for local media in a national milestone after years of secrecy and censorship by the former military regime.

Thein Sein didn't break any stunning news when he answered about 30 questions from local press and foreign correspondents on subjects ranging from fighting with ethnic rebels in the north to amending the country's military-fashioned constitution.

His mere appearance, however, told the story about his country's turn from secrecy and paranoia to relative openness. Sunday's news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, ran 20 minutes past its scheduled 2-hour length.

The 67-year-old ex-general, who had been prime minister under the ruling junta, looked tense as he started answering questions but soon relaxed enough to reveal a little-known sense of humor.

Explaining why he was holding the pioneering press conference, he told of being interviewed many times during his recent visit to the United States and said

he had the hardest time answering questions on the inquisitorial BBC program, "Hardtalk."

After surviving that experience, he said, he's no longer afraid of meeting with the media. But he added that he feared he would also be criticized by Myanmar's media if he didn't come out to talk at home after giving so many interviews abroad.

Thein Sein avoided revealing too much, speaking only in general terms even about critical matters such as the fighting in Kachin state, which reflects a deeper, long-running problem of how much autonomy to give the large ethnic minorities living in border regions.

In what many see as an example of the government's weakness compared to the still-influential military, his orders last year for the army to cease its fighting against the Kachin Independence Army were ignored.

"To get a cease-fire agreement is our government's goal," he said when asked about the matter. "It's the people's desire to get peace and we are doing our best for the people's desire."

ASIA BRIEFS

Japan's Okinawa assembly protests rape

TOKYO (AP)—The legislature of the Japanese island of Okinawa has passed a protest resolution following the arrests of two U.S. sailors accused of rape, and says U.S. bases there should be shrunk or returned. The resolution approved Monday demands proper punishment and victim compensation in the rape case. The prefectural assembly also demands that the U.S. military educate its personnel better to prevent crimes against Okinawa residents. The legislature says 5,747 crimes are on record involving U.S. military personnel since Okinawa was returned to Japan in 1972. It says that in some cases criminal activity is getting worse.

Another Tibetan sets himself on fire in protest

BEIJING (AP)—Another Tibetan has set himself on fire while shouting slogans calling for the Dalai Lama's return to Tibet, a London-based rights group said. Free Tibet said Lhamo Kyeb, a 27-year-old

father of two children, died Saturday near a monastery in northwestern China's Gansu province. Citing a witness, it said he set himself on fire and ran toward Bhora monastery in Xiahe county and that state security forces standing nearby ran after him and tried to put out the flames. The witness said Lhamo Kyeb attempted to stop them from extinguishing the fire, forcing them to back away, and then he walked toward the monastery and fell to the ground. The group said nearly 60 Tibetans have set themselves on fire since March 2011 to protest Chinese rule over the Himalayan region.

Philippine rebels says new clash unrelated to pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines says a new clash between some of its fighters and a breakaway faction was sparked by a clan feud and is unrelated to a recently signed peace pact opposed by the faction. Dozens of gunmen from the main Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the breakaway

Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement clashed Thursday in a village in Mamasapano town in southern Maguindanao province, killing two combatants and wounding four others. A spokesman of the main rebel group, Von al Haq, said Sunday it is taking steps to pacify the warring rebels and prevent an escalation.

Nepalese minister resigns over bribery charges

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP)—An official says Nepal's labor minister has stepped down after being asked by the prime minister to resign for allegedly seeking bribes for registering private companies offering jobs abroad. Such companies are mushrooming in Nepal with thousands of younger Nepalese seeking jobs in the oil-rich Gulf and other countries. Prashant Lamichhane, a media officer in the prime minister's office, said Sunday that Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai asked for Labor and Employment Minister Kumar Belbase's resignation after television news channels showed

clips of one of his aides asking job agencies' representatives for more than 250,000 rupees (\$3,000) each to register their business.

SKorean activists banned from flying leaflets

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has banned activists from launching propaganda leaflets to North Korea after Pyongyang threatened to attack. North Korea said last week it would strike if South Korean activists carried out their plan to fly balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border. South Korea pledged to retaliate if it was attacked. South Korean police say they mobilized hundreds of officers Monday to seal off roads to prevent activists and other people from entering a launch site near the border. The action to halt the leaflet release is unusual; the government had only implored them to stop their campaign, citing freedom of speech. Activist Park Sanghak says the measure is tantamount to yielding to Pyongyang's threat.

World

Lebanon protesters try to storm govt palace

BEIRUT (AP)—The funeral for Lebanon's slain intelligence chief descended into chaos Sunday as soldiers fired tear gas at protesters who tried to storm the government palace, directing their rage at a leadership they consider puppets of a murderous Syrian regime.

The assassination of Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan in a massive car bomb Friday threatens to shatter the fragile political balance in Lebanon, a country plagued by decades of strife—much of it linked to political and military domination by Damascus.

"The Sunni blood is boiling!" the crowd chanted as hundreds of people clashed with security forces. More than 100 protesters broke through a police cordon of concertina wire and metal gates, putting them within 50

yards (meters) of the entrance to the palace.

Authorities responded with tear gas and several officers fired machine guns and rifles in the air. One plain clothes guard pulled a pistol from his belt and fired over protesters' heads. Then a roar of automatic gunfire erupted, sending the protesters scattering for cover.

It was unclear if the guards fired live bullets or blanks, but no protesters were reported injured by gunfire. Several were overcome by tear gas, and the government's media office said 15 guards were injured.

The killing of al-Hassan has laid bare some of Lebanon's most intractable issues: the country's dark history of sectarian divisions, its links to the powerful regime in Damascus and the role of Hezbollah, the

Shiite militant group that dominates Lebanon's government and is Syria's closest ally.

Many fear the crisis could lead to the kind of street protests and violence that have been the scourge of this Arab country of 4 million people for years, including a devastating 1975-1990 civil war and sectarian battles between Sunnis and Shiites in 2008.

Al-Hassan, 47, was a powerful opponent of Syria in Lebanon. He headed an investigation over the summer that led to the arrest of former Information Minister Michel Samaha, one of Syria's most loyal allies in Lebanon.

He also led the inquiry that implicated Syria and Hezbollah in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri in 2005.

Al-Hassan was buried near

Hariri in Beirut's central Martyrs Square, where thousands of people gathered earlier Sunday for the funeral. TV footage showed al-Hassan's wife Anna, his young sons Majd and Mazen, and his parents shedding tears near his coffin.

There were significant parallels between the life and death of Hariri and al-Hassan—both powerful Sunni figures struck

down by car bombs at a time when they were seen to be opposing Syria. Syria denies any role in either killing.

Hariri's death sparked massive street protests in Lebanon that forced Damascus to withdraw its tens of thousands of troops from the country. Al-Hassan's killing, seven years later, has not had such a galvanizing effect: Turnout at his fu-

neral fell well short of expectations, suggesting the country's anti-Syria bloc is rudderless.

Friday's killing also exacerbated sectarian tensions, which already were enflamed over the crisis in Syria. Many of Lebanon's Sunni Muslims have backed Syria's mainly Sunni rebels, while Shiite Muslims have tended to back Syrian President Bashar Assad's regime.



Lebanese protesters chant slogans against the Lebanese government after the funeral of Brig. Gen. Wissam al-Hassan, who was assassinated on Friday by a car bomb in Beirut, Lebanon, Sunday Oct. 21, 2012.

Car bomb kills 13 in Syrian capital

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—A taxi packed with explosives blew up near a police station in the Syrian capital Sunday, killing 13 people as the U.N. envoy tasked with ending the country's civil war pushed his call for a cease-fire in talks with President Bashar Assad.

The blast, which also wounded 29 people in the popular shopping district of Bab Touma, was overshadowed however by anti-Syria violence in neighboring Lebanon.

Hundreds of angry Lebanese protesters tried to storm the government headquarters in the capital, Beirut, blaming Syria for the Friday assassination of a top Lebanese intelligence official and accusing the government of being far too close to the Assad regime. For much of the past 30 years, Lebanon has lived under Syrian military and political domination.

In Syria, two government officials speaking from the scene of the blast said the taxi

exploded 50 meters (yards) from the main police station in Bab Touma, a neighborhood in Damascus' Old City. They insisted on anonymity because they were not allowed to brief the media.

An Associated Press reporter at the site said blood stained the street and sidewalks, shards of glass littered the pavement from shattered shop windows, and the charred hulks of at least four cars littered the street.

Vegetable vendor Mohammad Hanbali, 27, said several people wounded in the blast were lying on the street when he rushed to help.

"It's a cowardly act, carried out by terrorists," said Hanbali, who was hit by a piece of shrapnel in the left leg.

State news agency SANA put the death toll at 13, while the anti-regime Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 10 people were killed.

Bab Touma is mainly inhabited by Syria's Christian

minority.

Damascus has been a frequent target of bombings in recent months, although it was once largely immune to the violence spreading across the country since the anti-Assad revolt began in March 2011.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for Sunday's blast, but Islamist groups fighting alongside the rebels have in the past said they target security installations in the capital.

In another part of the city, U.N. and Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi met with Assad to push for a cease-fire between rebels and government forces for the four-day Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, which begins Oct. 26.

Brahimi said that he met earlier with Syrian opposition groups inside and outside the country to discuss his truce plan. He said he received "promises" but "not a commitment" from them to honor the cease-fire.

Pope names 7 new saints, seeks to revive faith

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Some 80,000 pilgrims in flowered lei, feathered headdresses and other traditional garb flooded St. Peter's Square on Sunday as Pope Benedict XVI added seven more saints onto the roster of Catholic role models in a bid to reinvigorate the faith in parts of the world where it's lagging.

Two of the new saints were Americans: Kateri Tekakwitha, the first Native American saint from the U.S., and Mother Marianne Cope, a 19th century Franciscan nun who cared for leprosy patients in Hawaii.

It seemed as if a third saint, Pedro Calungsod, a 17th century Filipino teenage martyr, drew the biggest crowd of all, with Rome's sizeable Filipino expat community turning out in flag-waving droves to welcome the country's second saint.

In his homily, Benedict praised each of the seven as heroic and courageous examples for the entire church, calling Cope a "shining" model for Catholics and Kateri an inspiration to indigenous faithful across North America.

"May the witness of these new saints ... speak today to the whole church, and may their intercession strengthen and sus-

tain her in her mission to proclaim the Gospel to the whole world," he said.

The celebrations began at dawn, with Native Americans in beaded and feathered headdresses and leather-fringed tunics singing songs to Kateri to the beat of drums as the sun rose over St. Peter's Square.

Later, the crowds cheered as the pope read out the names of each of the new saints in Latin and declared that they were worthy of veneration by the entire church. Prayers were read out in Mohawk and Cebuano, the dialect

of Calungsod's native Cebu province, and in English by a nun wearing a lei.

"It's so nice to see God showing all the flavors of the world," marveled Gene Caldwell, a Native American member of the Menominee reservation in Neopit, Wisconsin, who attended with his wife, Linda. "The Native Americans are enthralled" to have Kateri canonized, he said.

The canonization coincided with a Vatican meeting of the world's bishops on trying to revive Christianity in places where it's fallen by the wayside.

Several of the new saints were missionaries, making

clear the pope hopes their example—even though they lived hundreds of years ago—will be relevant today as the Catholic Church tries to hold on to its faithful. It's a tough task as the Vatican faces competition from evangelical churches in Africa and Latin America, increasing secularization in the West and disenchantment due to the clerical sex abuse scandal in Europe and beyond.

The two American saints actually hail from roughly the same place—what is today upstate New York—although they lived two centuries apart.

Known as the "Lily of the Mohawks," Kateri was born in 1656 to a pagan Iroquois father and an Algonquin Christian mother. Her parents and only brother died when she was 4 during a smallpox epidemic that left her badly scarred and with impaired eyesight. She went to live with her uncle, a Mohawk, and was baptized Catholic by Jesuit missionaries. But she was ostracized and persecuted by other natives for her faith, and she died in what is now Canada when she was 24.

Speaking in English and French, in honor of Kateri's Canadian ties, Benedict noted how unusual it was in Kateri's indigenous culture for her to choose to devote herself to her Catholic faith.



Benedict XVI

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex Venezuelan VP says he met with Fidel Castro

HAVANA (AP)—Former Venezuelan Vice President Elias Jaua said Sunday that he met with aging revolutionary icon Fidel Castro for five hours and showed The Associated Press photos of the encounter, quashing persistent rumors that the former Cuban leader was on his deathbed or had suffered a massive stroke. Jaua also confirmed that the 86-year-old retired Cuban president personally accompanied him to the Hotel Nacional after their meeting Saturday, in which they talked about politics, history, culture and tourism. "He had the courtesy of bringing me to the hotel," Jaua said Sunday, adding that Castro looked "very well." Jaua showed a photograph of himself seated in a minibus along with the former Cuban leader, Castro's wife, Dalia Soto del Valle, a hotel executive and several other

people. The photo shows Jaua and Castro smiling broadly, and the former Cuban leader is wearing a checked shirt and cowboy hat.

France: Iran seems on track for nukes by mid-2013

PARIS (AP)—France's foreign minister says Iran appears on track to reach the ability to produce a nuclear weapon by the first half of next year. France is one of six countries that have negotiated with Tehran over its nuclear program, which Iran insists is peaceful. Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told Europe-1 radio Sunday that unspecified experts "have established in an absolutely indisputable way" that Iran has compiled a full array of centrifuges that "apparently will allow the ability to go toward possession of the nuclear weapon by the first half of next year, the end of the first half." He did not elaborate.

Overdrive

Hyundai Equus is a convincing luxury car

By G. CHAMBERS WILLIAMS III
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

When Volkswagen experimented with the idea of a luxury car in the \$60,000-plus price range for the U.S. market, the attempt fell flat.

Now Hyundai is doing the same thing with its Equus sedan, and as unrealistic as that might seem, the South Korean automaker that built its reputation on low-price, high-value vehicles just might have a better chance of success than Volkswagen did with its Phaeton.

For 2013, the Equus comes in two models: the Signature, which begins at \$59,250, and the Ultimate, our tester, which starts at \$66,250.

With the Phaeton, which VW sold in the U.S. for just three years (2004-06), the big question among American critics was whether people paying that much money for a car would want to stand in line with Jetta owners for service at their local Volkswagen dealers. After all, you get royal treatment at most luxury-car dealerships, and you don't have to mingle with people who paid a quarter of what you did for their cars.

That problem has been eliminated with the Equus, which has



HYUNDAI/MCT
For 2013, the Hyundai Equus comes in two models, the Signature, which begins at \$59,250 (plus \$900 freight), and the Ultimate, which starts at \$66,250.

a special arrangement for service. The dealer comes to your home or office and picks it up, leaving you a comparable loaner car to drive if necessary while your vehicle is being serviced.

For Hyundai, the Equus represents the evolution of its vehicle line from cheap subcompacts to a car that competes with the likes of Mercedes-Benz, BMW and Lexus, although without the upscale brand name.

Under the hood of both models is a 5.0-liter V-8 engine rated at 429 horsepower when using

premium fuel, or 421 horsepower with regular gasoline. The torque rating is 376 pound-feet with premium, or 365 with regular.

The engine is connected to an eight-speed automatic transmission with manual-shift capability. EPA ratings are 15 mpg city/23 highway/18 combined.

Among standard features are a 17-speaker, 608-watt Lexicon audio system; electronically controlled air suspension with continuous damping; electronic stability control with a pre-collision warning system; adaptive

cruise control; high-intensity-discharge headlights; front and rear parking assistance and a rearview camera; premium leather upholstery; a microfiber suede headliner; heated and cooled front seats with massage on the driver's side; and a heated wood/leather steering wheel.

For the additional \$7,000, the Equus Ultimate includes such extras as a forward-view parking and cornering camera, power trunk lid, heated/cooled/reclining rear seats with powered headrests, a rear seat refrig-

NUTS & BOLTS

2013 Hyundai Equus

- The package: Large, four-door, four-passenger, rear-wheel-drive, V-8 powered luxury sport sedan.
 - Highlights: The most-expensive Hyundai yet, this car clearly is on par with some of the best luxury sedans from Europe and Japan, just without the high-end brand name. It's elegant but not ostentatious, and has a comfortable interior, powerful engine, and smooth and quiet ride.
 - Negatives: Could have better fuel economy.
 - Engines: 5.0-liter V-8.
 - Transmission: Eight-speed automatic with manual-shift feature.
 - Power/torque: 429 horsepower/376 pound-feet (with premium gasoline); 421 hp/365 pound-feet (with regular gas).
 - Length: 203.1 inches.
 - Curb weight: 4,486-4,643 pounds.
 - Brakes, front/rear: Disc/disc, antilock.
 - Electronic stability control: Standard.
 - Side air bags: Front and rear seat-mounted; side curtain for both rows.
 - Trunk capacity: 16.7 cubic feet.
 - EPA fuel economy: 15 mpg city/23 highway/18 combined.
 - Base price, base model: \$59,250
 - Base price, test model: \$66,250
 - Price as tested: \$66,250
 - On the Road rating: 8.7 (of a possible 10).
- All prices exclude destination charges.

erator and a rear entertainment system.

It definitely has the kind of curb appeal that you'd expect from a Mercedes S-class or BMW 7-series, and to help keep consumers from thinking about Hyundai's past as a bargain brand, you won't see the Hyundai name or "H" emblem on the exterior of the Equus.

The interior is every bit as luxurious as that of a European blue-blood or a Lexus, maybe even more so. The rear seat on my 2013 Equus tester was divided into two comfortable leather seats that do their best to mimic expensive living-room recliners, and there was a footrest and massager on the right side. There were even vanity mirrors that folded down from the ceiling for both rear passengers.

The tester had a White Satin Pearl exterior with chrome accents, and a Cashmere Leather interior, with lots of wood trim. Standard were 19-inch, chrome-alloy, nine-spoke wheels.

Power sunshades were included on the rear side windows, and there was an eight-inch color monitor on the back of the front center console for the rear entertainment system.

The little refrigerator is in the middle console between the rear passengers, and there were separate controls for the air conditioning/heating system for the rear.

I'm always impressed by power trunk lids, but that's not something you generally find on cars—it's usually a feature on SUV hatches. But this is a great feature, especially if you're approaching the vehicle with your hands full. The trunk is fairly roomy, at 16.7 cubic feet.

Overall length of the Equus is 203.1 inches—about three inches shorter than the Mercedes

S-class and three inches longer than the BMW 7-series sedans, but less than an inch shorter than the Lexus LS 460 L (long wheelbase) model.

The Equus is the third vehicle in the Hyundai lineup to come with rear-wheel drive; the rest have front drive. Both the Hyundai Genesis sedan and coupe have rear drive. The Genesis sedan is also premium priced, with a range of about \$35,000-\$47,000, while the coupe ranges from about \$25,000-\$35,000.

Hyundai attributes the smooth and quiet ride and the fairly crisp and responsive handling of the Equus to its stiff and lightweight unibody construction, which makes extensive use of high-strength steel.

There is a driver-selectable "sport" setting for the suspension to make it firmer for better cornering stability. But for the best ride comfort, Hyundai recommends the softer "normal" setting.

The Equus has a decent 39.6-foot turning radius, and it's designed to maneuver easily in city traffic and parking lots.

LED turn signals are a cool feature, something we're seeing on a lot of new vehicles.

The optional forward-view camera gives the driver a good look ahead and to each side when pulling into tight spots. Front seats are quite comfortable, even for a long drive, and they can accommodate tall people, too. Only the driver's seat on our tester had the massage feature, though, which was a disappointment to my spouse, riding shotgun. She appreciates massaging seats a lot more than I do.

Among safety features are nine air bags, active electronic front head rests, and a lane-departure warning system. There is an electronic parking brake, as well.

IN MEMORIAM



RUTH LIEPMANN TIGHE

JULY 9, 1931 – OCTOBER 17, 2012

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Life & Style



Susan Boyle's fairy tale dream tempered by reality

By JILL LAWLESS
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON (AP)—She dreamed a dream, and it came true. But what happened next for Susan Boyle?

The middle-aged church volunteer from a small town in Scotland became an instant global celebrity in 2009 with her heart-stopping rendition of the “Les Miserables” number “I Dreamed a Dream” on a TV talent show.

A week is a long time in showbiz—and in our hyper-speed online age three and a half years is an eternity—but Boyle is still going strong. She has sold millions of records, received an honorary doctorate, sung for Pope Benedict XVI and performed in Las Vegas. A stage musical about her life has played to enthusiastic crowds across Britain and is headed for Australia, and next month she releases her fourth album, “Standing Ovation.”

But the 51-year-old singer who entered the TV talent contest to make her late mother proud is remarkably unchanged. She’s still a bit frumpy, though she’s acquired a new hairdo, more expensive clothes and a makeover. She still lives in her down-at-heel home town, has outbursts of anger and struggles to overcome her nerves before live performances.

It’s a fairy tale, yes, but with dark shadows lurking in the corners.

“People can’t accept that you can dream a dream, but part of the dream is also a nightmare,” said Elaine C. Smith, a Scottish actress who knows Boyle and plays her in the biographical stage show “I Dreamed a Dream.”

“Fairy dust comes out, but shrapnel comes out as well.”

Boyle now has a car and chauffeur to take her to appointments, but she sticks close to familiar places and routines. She has bought a new house, a modern four-bedroom two-story in Blackburn that cost 300,000 pounds (\$480,000), but locals say she often stays in the modest row house she grew up in.

And she still shows up occasionally to sing karaoke at The Crown pub.

“She belts them out like she used to and is not averse to a duet,” said 20-year-old local Helen Cameron. “It’s nice that this has not changed her. I think she’s under a lot of pressure normally. Here she can be herself.”

As well as having the support of her community, Boyle is well protected by her manager, Andy Stephens, and a close circle of friends and family—a factor that helps act as a “psychological vaccine” against the pressures of sudden fame, according to Cary Cooper, professor of psychology and health at Lancaster University.

“If you don’t have the proper social support system to protect you, your celebrity status can cause you enormous stress,”

said Cooper, who has studied the relationship between celebrity and stress. “She is still rooted in her friends and people who know her. Most celebrities aren’t.”

Boyle’s life changed in a few minutes when her first appearance on “Britain’s Got Talent” was broadcast in April 2009. The soaring voice emerging from the dowdy, frizzy-haired figure; the audience titters turning to gasps; the shocked faces of Simon Cowell and the other judges—it was artfully staged television, but also a moment of genuine emotion.

“We judged her. Anybody who says they didn’t is telling lies,” Smith said. “She walked on and opened her mouth, and within minutes everybody watching was in tears.”

The Internet clip went around the world, and keeps on going. On YouTube alone it has been viewed more than 106 million times.

Boyle’s first album, “I Dreamed a Dream,” topped both the U.K. and U.S. charts. So did her second, “The Gift.”

Although Boyle’s covers of pop classics and musical theater standards rarely make critics swoon, her three albums collectively have sold more than 14 million copies.

This month she’s sung on “Dancing With the Stars” in the U.S. and performed in Las Vegas with Donny Osmond, a childhood idol.

It’s a long way from Boyle’s

In this Tuesday, March 27, 2012 file photo, Susan Boyle performs during her musical ‘I Dreamed A Dream’ at the Theatre Royal in Newcastle, England.

AP

home town of Blackburn, a community of about 5,000 people 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of Edinburgh that lies in one of Britain’s most deprived areas.

The youngest of nine children of a devout Roman Catholic family, Boyle had learning difficulties as a child, the result of oxygen deprivation at birth. She struggled in school and was bullied by other children.

She left school with few qualifications, never married—though she later said she’d exaggerated in telling the “Britain’s Got Talent” judges she’d “never been kissed”—and spent years caring for her widowed mother, Bridget, who died in 2007.

The thing that gave her the greatest pleasure was singing, in church or during karaoke nights at the pub.

She has said she entered “Britain’s Got Talent” in memory of her late mother, “to show her I could do something with my life.”

All did not all go smoothly after her astonishing debut. During the final stages of the competition she got into a dustup with two reporters.

Although she was widely ex-

pected to win the 100,000 pound (\$160,000) prize, she ended up coming second to dance troupe Diversity. After the series ended, she checked into the Priory, rehab clinic to the stars, to be treated for nervous exhaustion.

She still has outbursts of temper, and has said she still suffers anxiety when singing live before audiences.

“When I first went for ‘Britain’s Got Talent’ I had such a feeling of failure and that’s still part of me,” Boyle said in an interview last year with the *Daily Mail* newspaper. “It’s hard when that’s been the pattern of your life. It’s hard to believe those patterns have been broken.”

Smith said Boyle’s struggles—reflected in the bittersweet tone of the stage show—disappoint some of the singer’s fans.

“They want the dream to come true and her life to be perfect,” she said.

But Smith said Boyle’s flaws are part of what makes her a star. After all, “you didn’t love Judy Garland because she was perfect.”

“This is a woman who is conquering the real fears she has,” Smith said.

In Celebration of Her Life

Ruth Liepmann Tighe

July 9, 1931 – October 17, 2012

Ruth, active to the end of her days, passed peacefully and with friends on Wednesday. Through her work and spirit for more than 30 years in Saipan, where she adopted the island and its challenges, she left an honorable legacy behind. Her spirit will live on in the hearts of her family and many friends throughout the world whom she has touched.

Predeceased by:

Son: Leon S. Tighe
Mark J. Tighe

Survived by:

Brother: Hugo W. Liepmann
Sister: Doris L. Partan
Brother: Peter Liepmann
Son: Michael F. Tighe
Daughter: Stacey A. Tighe
Daughter: Amy R. Tighe

Many other family members, friends and colleagues

On October 25, 2012, Thursday, an open memorial service will be held at Santa Remedios, Tanapag at 1:00pm, followed by a private burial at sea late that afternoon.

In lieu of flowers, contributions are welcome to the Commonwealth Cancer Association.

Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers for Ruth.

The Family of Ruth Tighe

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Paranormal Activity 4

Friday	4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday thru Thursday	4:05	7:05	

Cast: Stephen Dunham, Alexondra Lee
Genre: Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

The Paranormal Activity film series continues with this fourth entry from Paramount Pictures and returning directors of the previous film, Henry Joost and Ariel Schulman.



Argo

Friday	4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday thru Thursday	4:15	7:15	

Cast: Ben Affleck, Alan Arkin, John Goodman
Genre: Thriller • Rated R

Synopsis

A CIA agent (Ben Affleck) creates a fake Hollywood production in order to fool Iranian terrorists into releasing a group of U.S. Diplomats in this Warner Bros. docudrama based on the 1979 Tehran hostage crisis. Affleck directs from a script by Chris Terrio, with George Clooney handling producing duties. Alan Arkin, John Goodman, and Bryan Cranston co-star.



Here Comes The Boom

Friday	4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00
Monday thru Thursday	4:00	7:00	

Cast: Kevin James, Henry Winkler, Salma Hayek
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG



Sinister

Friday	4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday thru Thursday	4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ethan Hawke, James Ransone, Vincent D'Onofrio
Genre: Horror • Rated R



Taken 2

Friday	4:10	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday thru Thursday	4:10	7:10	

Cast: Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace, Famke Janssen
Genre: Thriller • Rated PG13



Pitch Perfect

Friday	4:20	7:20	9:55
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday thru Thursday	4:20	7:20	

Cast: Anna Kendrick, Skylar Astin, Ben Platt
Genre: Comedy • Rated PG13



Hotel Transylvania 3D

Friday	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	7:25
Sunday	1:25	7:25
Monday thru Thursday	7:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG



Hotel Transylvania 2D

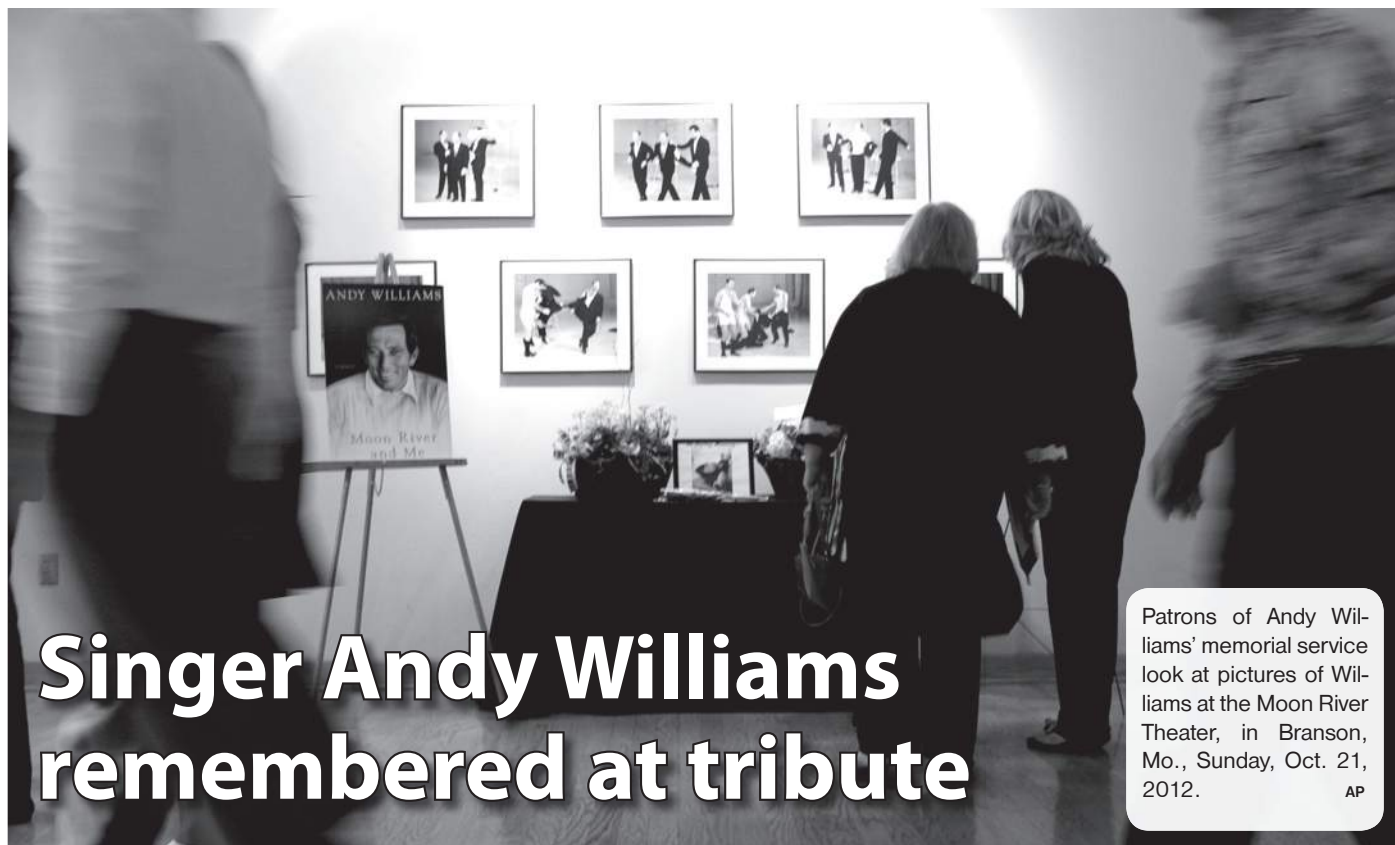
Friday	4:25	
Saturday	4:25	
Sunday	4:25	
Monday thru Thursday	4:25	

Cast: Adam Sandler, Selena Gomez, Kevin James
Genre: Children's/family • Rated PG

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Singer Andy Williams remembered at tribute

Patrons of Andy Williams' memorial service look at pictures of Williams at the Moon River Theatre, in Branson, Mo., Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012. AP

BRANSON, Missouri (AP)—Entertainer Andy Williams was remembered Sunday for a smooth voice that could soothe the soul, an inviting smile and a warmth that became synonymous with Christmas as celebrities and fans alike gathered for a memorial tribute at his Moon River Theatre in the southwest Missouri town he adopted as his home.

Williams, who died last month at the age of 84 after a battle with cancer, was serenaded in absentia by a series of musical artists who got their start with him decades ago or had performed with him over the years—the Lennon Sisters, Osmond Brothers and Gatlin Brothers, among them. Comedian Bob Newhart choked up with emotion as he joked of his friendship with Williams.

Others sent tributes by video, including comedian Bill Cosby and Ethel Kennedy, who recalled swooning as she once danced with Williams—a family friend who sang at the memorial for her husband, Robert

F. Kennedy, after his assassination in 1968.

Williams himself also appeared on the video screen as clips recalling his musical albums, TV variety show and Christmas specials were played.

More than 1,000 people attended the tribute hosted by entertainer Peter Marshall that started as an invitation-only event, but was opened to fans as word spread through Branson.

Williams had three platinum and 18 gold records, and five Grammy award nominations during a career that began at age 8—when he performed with his older brothers Dick, Bob and Don—and continued nearly until his death as he performed at his Branson theater named for his signature song, “Moon River.”

“For his fans, his music is the tapestry of our lives—it can soothe life’s difficult moments, help to celebrate the glorious ones,” said Anthony Gigliotti, who spoke at the memorial service as a representative of Williams’ fan club.

Williams became a big star in 1956, the same year as Elvis Presley, with the swing song “Canadian Sunset.” He hosted “The Andy Williams Show” through the 1960s into 1971, and the TV variety show won three Emmys. His annual Christmas specials, featuring Williams dressed in colorful sweaters singing favorites such as “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year,” continued long after his TV show ended and were renewed with live performances after Williams opened his Branson theater in 1992.

“Christmas is never going to be the same to me,” Newhart said Sunday, his voice breaking up with emotion.

A cross section of people who knew Williams was seated out of the spotlight in the theater that he built. Some knew him in passing from his friendly smile and wave that graced Branson, and others in a more personal way, including the man who regularly golfed with Williams or the woman who once lived next door to him.

Former neighbor Jude Rhodes recalled Williams holding her sick dog and singing to her for a birthday.

“I could go on for days and days what a wonderful man he was—a sweet lovely man,” Rhodes said.

Williams was passionate not only about singing and entertaining, but about art, architecture, golf and virtually everything he did, his family and friends said.

His older brother Dick drew a standing ovation after singing at the service. Then the 2½-hour memorial tribute closed with a video of Williams singing “May Each Day”—a tune he often used to close his own shows.

“May each day in the year be a good day. May each day find you happy and gay. And may all of your days be as lovely as the one you shared with me today,” Williams sang. “May each day of your life be a good day, and good night.”

Then the theater lights went dark. And an audience applauded one final time for Williams.

Box-office activity slows for ‘Paranormal,’ Perry

Scary movie fans are still into “Paranormal Activity,” though the horror franchise looks as though it’s starting to run out of steam at the box office.

Paramount’s “Paranormal Activity 4” debuted at No. 1 with \$30.2 million, a big drop from the \$40 million and \$50 million opening weekends of the last two installments, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Perpetual hit maker Tyler Perry failed to find an audience for his new persona as ace crime solver. Summit Entertainment’s “Alex Cross,” starring Perry as author James Patterson’s brilliant criminal profiler, was a dud, opening at No. 5 with \$11.8 million.

Ben Affleck’s Iran hostage tale “Argo” held up well in its second weekend, remain-

ing at No. 2 with \$16.6 million, dropping just 15 percent from its debut. Big studio releases often drop 50 percent or more in

subsequent weekends, but “Argo” has proven a hit with critics and audiences alike, earning Academy Awards buzz and strong word of mouth that should give it a long run at theaters.

Affleck, who also directed “Argo,” plays a CIA specialist who concocts a wild plan to rescue six Americans hiding in Tehran after the 1979 takeover of the U.S. embassy there.

Released by Warner Bros., “Argo” raised its domestic total to \$43.2 million.

Liam Neeson’s action sequel “Taken 2,” which had been No. 1 the previous two

weekends, slipped to fourth-place with \$13.4 million, lifting the 20th Century Fox release’s domestic haul to \$106 million.

Adam Sandler’s animated hit “Hotel Transylvania,” from Sony Pictures, also held up well at No. 3 with \$13.5 million, pushing its domestic earnings to \$119 million.

In limited release, Fox Searchlight’s acclaimed drama “The Sessions” did solid business, opening with \$121,005 in four theaters in New York City and Los Angeles, for a healthy average of \$30,251 a cinema. By comparison, “Paranormal Activity 4” averaged \$8,851 in 3,412 theaters.

“The Sessions” stars John Hawkes and Helen Hunt in the true-life story of a man paralyzed by polio and stuck in an iron lung most of his life, who hires a sexual surrogate so he can lose his virginity. The film expands to more cities over the next month.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. “Paranormal Activity 4,” \$30.2 million (\$26.5 million international).
2. “Argo,” \$16.6 million (\$1.2 million international).
3. “Hotel Transylvania,” \$13.5 million (\$14.5 million international).
4. “Taken 2,” \$13.4 million (\$23.6 million international).
5. “Alex Cross,” \$11.8 million.
6. “Sinister,” \$9 million (\$2.3 million international).
7. “Here Comes the Boom,” \$8.5 million.
8. “Pitch Perfect,” \$7 million (\$320,000 international).
9. “Frankenweenie,” \$4.4 million (\$4.1 million international).
10. “Looper,” \$4.2 million (\$5.6 million international).

Brooks goes into Country Hall of Fame

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)—Garth Brooks promised he'd be emotional during his Country Music Hall of Fame induction. But the tears started before he made it all the way into the building.

Reflecting on personal heroes George Strait, Bob Seger and James Taylor on hand to salute him Sunday night, Brooks teared up as he spoke with reporters on the red carpet. He only got more emotional as the night went along.

"I moved to this town for one reason and that was to get 'Much Too Young to Feel This Damn Old' cut by George Strait," Brooks said before the ceremony as his eyes began to redden. "That's what George is singing tonight. It's gonna be so cool. I'm a fan. So I get to be a fan tonight."

Brooks was inducted along with trailblazing singer Connie Smith and keyboard player Hargus "Pig" Robbins, whose rolling signature sound has adorned countless hits across the radio dial.

It was a night studded with stars. Strait, Seeger and Taylor played for Brooks, dubbed "the mighty Garth" by Robbins. Lee Ann Womack, the Quebe Sisters and The Whites saluted Smith. Merle Haggard provided her induction speech.

Ronnie Dunn serenaded Robbins with a version of George Jones' "White Lightning," the first No. 1 hit Robbins played on in 1959, while simultaneously drinking moonshine from a Mason jar. Ronnie Milsap, who like Robbins is blind, joked "Pig and I are driving home tonight," before joining Robbins on "Behind Closed Doors."

Robbins is one of the most widely recorded session players in Nashville history, though his reputation spread far beyond Music City's borders. From Jones and most of his country contemporaries to rock 'n' roll pioneers like Bob Dylan, Neil Young and J.J. Cale, he worked with some of the most dynamic artists in music history. His sound de-



This Oct. 7, 2012 photo shows Garth Brooks singing "Papa Loved Mama," a song written by Kim Williams, as Williams is inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in Nashville, Tenn.

fines some of pop music's most memorable songs as well, which Crystal Gayle reminded everyone by singing "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue."

"If we listened to every hit record he played on, none of us would live long enough to make it to the end," Charlie McCoy said during his induction speech for Robbins.

Robbins also played on Smith's early recordings shortly after she arrived in Nashville.

Smith recounted before the show how she won a talent contest in Columbus, Ohio. Bill Anderson heard her sing and less than a year later she had her first hit, "Once a Day," which became the first debut single by a female country artist to reach No. 1. It sat atop the charts for eight weeks.

She inspired a generation of singers just as she was inspired by singers like Jean Shepard and the late Kitty Wells, whom she now joins in the hall of fame.

"Jean Shepard went in last year and she said, 'I hope they hang your plaque next to mine,' and I don't think I could have a better compliment that

that," Smith said.

Wherever they decide to hang Brooks' plaque will quickly become the most visited spot in the museum. Selling out stadiums, drawing more than 750,000 fans to Central Park, hosting "Saturday Night Live" and earning his own TV specials, Brooks rose from playing for tips in Oklahoma bars to becoming a pop culture phenomenon who started fashion trends, changed the concert business and is still imitated endlessly despite a decade of semi-retirement.

Name just about any trophy, lifetime achievement award or honorific, and Brooks can claim ownership. He balked, though, when informed he'd be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame last spring because of all the greats he thinks should go in ahead of him. But there's no denying Brooks' place in not only country music history, but American pop music as well. The third best-selling artist in U.S. history with more than 128 million albums sold, he helped take an oft-maligned genre of music to the world.

As Strait said during his induction of Brooks: "He blew it up, man."

And fans are still breathless in his company. Hundreds lined up outside the hall of fame in anticipation of the 50-year-old singer's arrival with wife Trisha Yearwood, holding signs and cheering. The shouts were just as loud during the ceremony.

Brooks gave a speech that included thanks to friends, family and industry professionals who helped him along the way. And he told the story of how Taylor, Seeger and Strait affected him at the points they entered his life. He remembered hearing Strait for the first time while visiting home after his freshman year in college.

"Unwound" came on the radio and it changed everything.

"From that point forward I knew what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Brooks said. "I wanted to be George Strait so bad, man. And I have to say now, 20 years in the business under my own name, thank you very much, I still want to be George Strait so damn bad."

Craig will try to persuade Fincher to make 'Girl Who Played With Fire'

By **STEVEN ZEITCHIK**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Hopes for "The Girl Who Played With Fire," a potential follow-up to David Fincher's English-language "The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo," slowed considerably after the first movie performed only decently at the box office.

But star Daniel Craig says he hasn't given up on the possibility of a new installment—and in fact hopes to persuade the director to return.

"Of course I'll embrace (the movie), especially if Fincher does it," Craig told the Los Angeles Times, adding, "I'm definitely going to work on him."

Fincher, who has a range of projects in development, has been publicly noncommittal

about returning to the franchise, which follows a Swedish-language art-house hit. The director has never made a sequel in his long career.

Though well-received by critics and fans, "Dragon Tattoo," Sony-MGM's 2011 adaptation of Stieg Larsson's bestseller, grossed \$233 million worldwide. That's a respectable but hardly blockbuster result for the R-rated film—and prompted an MGM executive to say earlier this year that the company had lost a small amount of money on the film and would likely participate in a new movie only if it was made at a lower budget.

Sony has been waiting on a new "Fire" script from writer Steven Zallian; there has been no recent development movement.

Larsson's book on which the



Actor Daniel Craig poses during a photo call for the new James Bond film "Skyfall" at the Crosby Street Hotel on Monday Oct. 15, 2012 in New York.

film would be based, the second in the so-called Millennium Trilogy, centers on Craig's Mikael Blomqvist and Rooney Mara's Lisbeth Salander inves-

tigating a sex-trafficking ring.

Meanwhile, Craig's latest James Bond movie, "Skyfall," opens in three weeks. And while the actor—who after three tentpole-sized movies in the last 16 months has no new film that has been greenlighted—says he finds the idea of doing some independent work appealing, he's not actively seeking it out.

"Sometimes shooting on a smaller scale, as long as things don't blow out of proportion, is very liberating," said the actor, who made a foray into indie drama with the Holocaust resistance film "Defiance" in 2008. "But I wouldn't like to self-consciously go out and look for some nice small project just to get a chance to prove my acting chops. It's like, I think I've ... done enough of that."

Expect young trick-or-treaters to come knocking before dark

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: Since Halloween is nearly here, I have a question about trick-or-treating. Last year on Halloween I was sitting down for an early dinner that was planned for 5 p.m. so we wouldn't be disturbed by trick-or-treaters.

Suddenly the doorbell rang. When I answered, I was bombarded with requests for candy from three boys who live down the street. It was still light outside.

I told them to come back later, when I wasn't eating dinner. I wanted to teach them that they shouldn't overextend the holiday and disrupt other people's lives. An hour later I received a call from the boys' mother scolding me for sending them away.

I was just trying to get a bit of peace and quiet before the festivities. Was I wrong not to give them candy and ask them to come back later?

TREAT CHEATER IN CONCORD, CALIF.



Dear Abby

DEAR TREAT CHEATER: I think so. The boys' mother may not have wanted them out after dark, which is why she started them on their rounds early. Halloween is the day for trick-or-treating, and part of the "treat" is seeing the children's excitement and their costumes. To have expected peace and quiet with kids in the neighborhood was unrealistic. Think back to your own childhood and, when the doorbell rings, answer it and be welcoming.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a 14-year-old girl and still wet the bed. I have tried to stop, but it doesn't do any good. Some of my family members know about my situation, but none of my friends do. I'm not sure how to stop because I have tried not drinking anything two hours before I go to bed, but wake up every three hours to use the bathroom.

EMBARRASSED IN HOUSTON

DEAR EMBARRASSED: If your pediatrician doesn't know about your problem, he or she should be told so you can be examined to make sure there is nothing physically wrong with you. There are medications that can help you overcome your problem. There are also devices called bed-wetting alarms that can solve the problem. To find out more about them, search for "bedwetting alarm" on Google.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have two family weddings coming up soon. One of our cousins has Down syndrome, among other medical problems. He's a grown man, but he has the mental capacity and manners of a 7-year-old. His parents don't discipline him and he is out of control. He screams and talks loudly and will jump around on the dance floor and run into couples while they are trying to dance. His parents bring him to special occasions, even when it's "adults only."

The upcoming weddings will have receptions afterward and adult-only dances. Don't his parents have any common sense? This family has the attitude that if he isn't invited, then they won't go. I have reached the point that it is fine with me. How do we make it clear that he is not welcome? It would be a shame to pay thousands of dollars for a wedding and have it ruined by his behavior. Most people probably won't understand my point of view. What do you think?

NERVOUS IN UTAH

DEAR NERVOUS: Regardless of your cousin's age, because of his parents' inability to control his behavior he should not be invited to the weddings. Because they have the attitude that if he is not invited they won't go, that's their choice. Make your wishes clear, and your problem will be solved.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

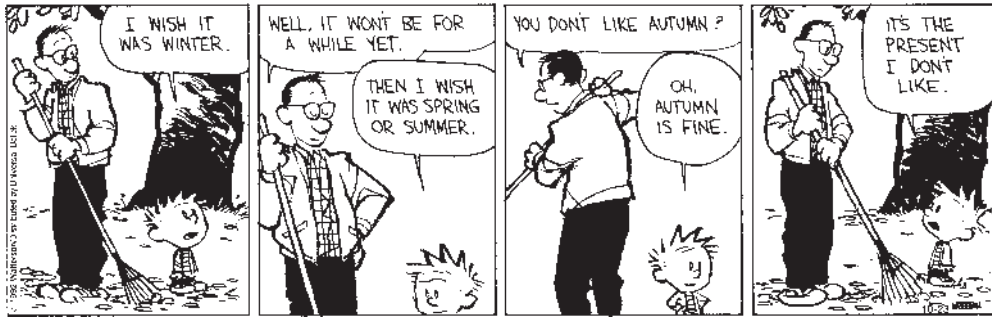
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

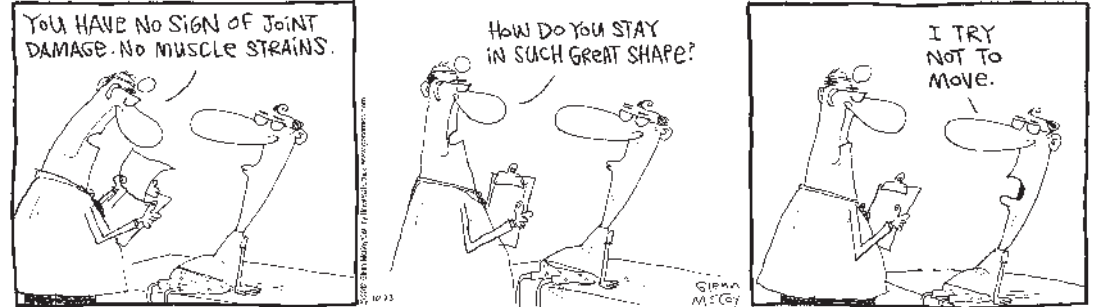
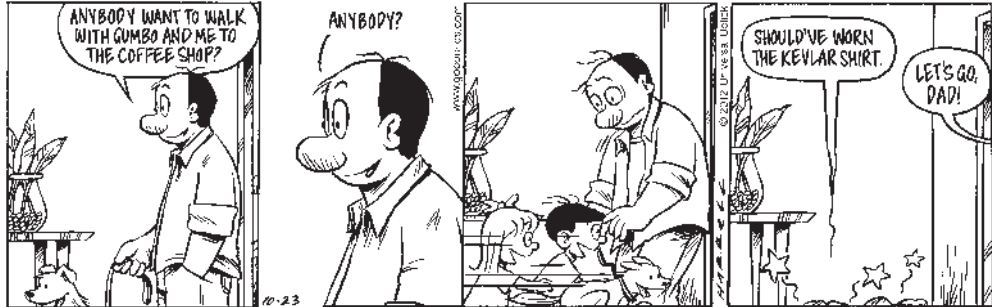


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Aid covered
5 Verse craft
9 Wander about
12 Neighborhood
13 Fairy tale baddie
14 — de Janeiro
15 Coup in bridge or baseball
17 Moreover
18 Release
19 Patchwork horse
21 Mad
24 Roe provider
25 Golfer McIlroy
26 Haughty, strutting sort
30 Ms. Gardner
31 Bluefin and albacore
32 Off-chanted initials
33 Round Table member
35 Smile
36 Trans-action

DOWN

1 Crone
2 Blunder
3 Meadow
4 Saute
5 Sit for a snapshot
6 Leer at music
7 Historic time
8 Tennessee city
9 Courtroom group
10 — That a Shame
11 Old foggy
16 Parched
20 Author Fleming
21 Fast-shrinking sea
22 PBS science show
23 International auto race
24 Expecto-rated
26 Tug
27 Yoko of music
28 21-Down's continent
29 Tug
31 Anti-riot chemical
34 Bee follower
35 Type of snake
37 Tease
38 Cold War abbr.
39 Toll road
40 Revolutionary War hero
41 Tackles' team-mates
44 Regret
45 Bullring bravo
46 Actress Thurman
47 Scepter

Solution time: 21 mins.

B	A	B	E	S	A	D	S	P	A	T
B	A	R	N	A	C	L	E	A	R	C
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L	V	I	N
W	E	D	G	E	S	C	A	N	A	G
E	R	I	E	C	H	A	R	T	E	R
T	I	S	P	O	T	T	Y	V	O	W
C	H	A	R	L	I	E	D	E	A	R
E	X	H	U	M	E	C	O	S		
P	R	O	S	C	H	A	R	M	I	N
E	A	S	E	T	I	A	M	A	R	I
E	Y	E	S	E	N	Y	E	L	P	

Yesterday's answer 10-23

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Reynolds, 36; Nancy Grace, 53; Weird Al Yankovic, 53; Dwight Yoakam, 56.

Happy Birthday: Emotions will be difficult to control, especially where money matters are concerned. You will need to use your contacts coupled with a little charm to help maintain your current status quo. A change in the way you do things or the people you work with is apparent. Your numbers are 2, 16, 23, 28, 31, 36, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Get serious about your financial relationships with personal or business partners. Collect what's owed to you and pay off any debts you've incurred. Once you establish your position free and clear of others, you will be able to embrace greater opportunity. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Nothing will be clear if you refuse to ask questions. Emotional matters will escalate and a reluctance to give you the help you require will cause setbacks. Take note of anyone using pressure to manipulate a situation you face. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Tread carefully in social settings. Refrain from making physical changes with the potential to turn out badly. Focus on what you can do to help the underdog or how you can improve your most important relationships. Underspend and overwork and you'll excel. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Network until you get what you want. Your insight and ability to touch others with your plans and knowledge will in turn lead to interesting op-

tions that will help you improve your personal lifestyle and surroundings. Love is in the stars. ★★★
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Pick your words carefully. Not everyone will be eager to follow your lead. The less pressure you put on others, the better. Focus more on making self-improvements. Push negative people away and embrace those heading in a similar direction. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Explore new avenues. Follow your basic instincts, and try your hand at something you've always wanted to do. Don't let mishaps at home hold you back. A financial gain can be made if you can separate your funds from someone who tends to overspend. ★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your knowledge, add to your skills and most of all, take care of matters that pertain to children, close friends or a partner who has been jerking you around. Straight communication will lead to answers and solutions. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Bickering will be a waste of time. Emotional issues will continue to escalate if you don't put your foot down and make a decision regarding whoever is disrupting your life. Follow your heart and your intuition. Love is highlighted. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Keep what you are doing low-key. The less you discuss your personal life, the better. Someone you least expect will try to force you into an argument that is based on false information. Make alterations at home to improve your situation. ★★★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Look over personal deals, contracts and investments. You can make changes that are better suited to the economic climate if you think matters through and make your moves based on your future needs. Back away from impulsive individuals. ★★★

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Avoid travel or dealing with people from foreign backgrounds. You aren't likely to get the satisfaction you want or get promises fulfilled. Financial limitations are apparent if you take on additional responsibilities. Make improvements at home that will ease your stress. ★★★

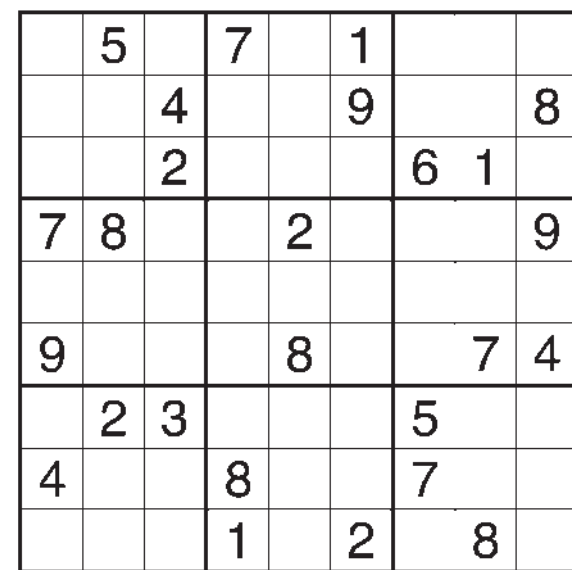
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): There is money to be made if you invest in something you feel comfortable pursuing. Contracts, settlements and pending legal matters can be dealt with efficiently. Love is in the stars. Making a promise will help clear up a misconception. ★★★
Birthday Baby: You are inventive, unique and attract attention. You are unpredictable.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

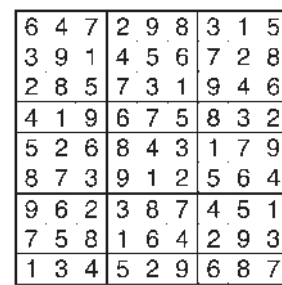
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

10/23

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ERNEST BORGNINE (1917-2012)

Solution: 7 letters

E S B H M N E D M A H D S D S
R R U O S C A R V G N N E O R
M E N L U H C I U A A F C N A
E D N E A N T O L V E J I N W
S N Y L H P T S Y U G E O A I
I A Y L A T I Y D S L L V K L
T L K C A L B E H T O C U D
C D M A D A E A S U T L H N
O A C N A C R A R A N N A C I
M B H E N O C E N A V T R C M
A U I A N R V A A E B U E O Y
R L N L I O I E R D Z B B R M
T C A S C D I A M R E M A S E
Y R I P P E D E H C T A N S N
R A B B I T O O H S I N G L E

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10/23

Adam, Anna, Badlanders, Barabbas, Black, Bounty, Bunny, Cane, Captiva, Castle, China, Chuka, Clare, Club, Cover, Cris, Cruz, Diana, Donna, Enemy Mind, Ernest, Feud, Guys, Hamden, Hole, Hunter, Island, Italy, JAG, Lylah, Marty, Mermaid, Mob, Nancee, Navy, Oscar, Rabbit, Read, Ripped, Role, Sharon, Shoot, Single, Sitcom, Snatched, Tough, Tova, Trap, Vera, Voices, Wars, Wild
Yesterday's Answer: Prince of Air
THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD Volume 34: October 2012. Every puzzle has a solution. Send your solutions to: eword@universalclick.com. For a complete list of solutions, visit www.wonderword.com. Send your solutions to: eword@universalclick.com. For a complete list of solutions, visit www.wonderword.com.

STUMPED?

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Fina Sisu Apt., 1-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$250/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

lar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

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• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

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■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-032 Opening Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012

ENGINEER

Duties: Under the overall supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Designs, executes, coordinates, and oversees assigned projects to ensure adherence with applicable specifications and standards. Assists the public with a variety of inquiries and requests; provides technical information on projects. Maintains project files; prepares related correspondence. Prepares design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Drafts a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assists with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment/work analysis. Performs research. Performs construction management for assigned projects. May perform engineer duties for other divisions of CUC. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION: Water and Wastewater Divisions, **SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.**
SALARY: \$37,344.71 to \$55,315.50 per year; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: One (1).
CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations; otherwise, not contracted.

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor's Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering and five (5) years of directly related experience in water and wastewater utility design, construction, and operations. Bachelor's degree in Architecture or Mechanical Engineering may be substituted for Civil or Environmental Engineering if five (5) years directly related experience in water and wastewater engineering, project management, and construction management can be proven. Knowledge of: Safe work practices; Applicable Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Basic project management principles; Mathematical concepts; Engineering principles and practices. Skill in: Interpreting and applying Federal, State, and/or Local laws, rules, and regulations; Preparing a variety of technical reports and/or documentation; Presenting technical information to management, public groups, and other related individuals; Reading and interpreting scaled drawings; Preparing specifications, plans, and cost estimates; Conducting studies; Using CAD programs to prepare plans for small projects and exhibits; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license. Pre-employment drug testing required.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 12-033 Opening Date: Tuesday, October 23, 2012
Closing Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2012

Senior Engineering Technician

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Chief Engineer for the Water and Wastewater Division or his/her designee. Uses advanced technical computer applications to support engineering functions of the Division. Compiles As-Built drawings and expertly incorporates the data into existing composite system drawings. Performs field duties to include: collecting and gathering data; determining assembly requirements; preparing data for drawings; clearing underground facilities; providing storm damage assessments; conducting field inventories; conducting testing; conducting sewerage verifications by locating and verifying boundaries; conducting verifications on materials; and, conducting land title research. Prepares drawings, plans, as-builts and land acquisition documents; performs engineering calculations. Receives requests for drawings and independently creates needed drawings and renderings required by engineers for design and construction contracts. Prepares daily assignments to meet schedules and requests. Prepares and submits a variety of reports and documents to include securing permits. Prepares staking sheets to determine the cost of the required work as stated in the application. Performs other duties of a similar nature or level as required.

LOCATION:
• Main Office at Joeten Dandan; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
• Sadog Tasi Offices of Water and Wastewater; Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
• Fieldwork on Saipan and temporary projects on Tinian and Rota also possible, but the primary place of work will be at the CUC main office, which is currently located at the Joeten Dandan building.

SALARY: \$17,800.46 to \$28,191.50 per annum; un-graded, un-classified.
POSITIONS: Two (2).
CONTRACT: Only if there are work authorization limitations; otherwise, not contracted.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: Associate Degree in Construction Management or Engineering Technology, or a related field and three years of senior engineering technician experience. Knowledge of: Public rights of way; CADD programs; water and wastewater infrastructure and projects; Global Positioning Systems; National Electric Code; Mathematics; Basic engineering concepts. Skill in: Drafting; Preparing engineering drawings using CADD; Using GIS; Preparing charts and graphs; Performing mathematical calculations; Performing basic engineering calculations; Solving problems; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must already have a U.S. or CNMI driver's license. Pre-employment drug testing required. Applicants may be tested.

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Giants thump Cardinals to force NLCS Game 7



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Ryan Vogelsong and these San Francisco Giants sure have become adept at saving their season.

Now, they need to do it once more against the comeback champs.

Vogelsong struck out a career-best nine in another postseason gem and on his biggest stage yet, and San Francisco staved off elimination for the second straight game, pushing St. Louis to a winner-take-all Game 7 in the NL championship series with a 6-1 victory Sunday night.

"There are two teams in the same boat right now. You'll see two teams go out and give it everything they've got," Giants reliever Jeremy Affeldt said. "This is what we play all year for and we'll put it all on the line. This is Game 7. There's only one better Game 7. They are no more what-if scenarios."

Turns out the defending champion Cardinals aren't the only team tough to put away in October.

Marco Scutaro delivered a two-run double and Buster Posey drove in his first run of the series with a groundout in the first inning as San Francisco struck early to support Vogelsong.

San Francisco's Matt Cain and St. Louis' Kyle Lohse are set to pitch in a rematch of Game 3, won by the Cardinals. There's a forecast of rain in the Bay Area during the day.

"It's time to get it done," Lohse said.

These wild-card Cardinals sure seem to like the all-or-nothing route in October, while San Francisco thrives playing from behind.

"Clutch performances are just guys playing normally in big spots. You can't be petrified by the situation, and neither of these teams have been," St. Louis' Lance Berkman said. "One of the things that makes Game 7's so interesting is that I don't think either of these teams is going to choke it away."

Five games with their year on the line, five wins for these gutsy Giants this postseason. Now, it comes down to one game for the past two World Series champions to return, with the Detroit Tigers waiting.

Pitching to chants of "Vogey! Vogey!" from the sellout crowd



San Francisco Giants' Pablo Sandoval hits a double off St. Louis Cardinals starting pitcher Chris Carpenter during the first inning of Game 6 of baseball's National League championship series Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012, in San Francisco.

Red Sox hope to bounce back after trades

BOSTON (AP)—The Boston Red Sox are hoping that two big trades will help them get back to the playoffs after missing out three years in a row.

The first was a genuine blockbuster that sent Adrian Gonzalez, Carl Crawford, Nick Punto and Josh Beckett to the Los Angeles Dodgers and freed up more than \$250 million in future salaries. The second was the deal that brought John Farrell back to Fenway Park on Sunday.

The Red Sox hired Farrell to be their new manager after pursuing him for more than a year, agreeing to trade infielder Mike Aviles to the Blue Jays to pry their former pitching coach out of the manager's chair in Toronto.

"I'm extremely excited to be returning to the Red Sox and to Boston," Farrell said in a statement released by the Red Sox. "I love this organization. It's a

great franchise in a special city and region, with great fans, and we want nothing more than to reward their faith in us."

Farrell had been the Toronto manager the past two seasons, posting a 154-170 record with two fourth-place finishes. He had one year remaining on his contract with the Blue Jays, allowing them to demand compensation from Boston.

It's the second time the Red Sox have pursued Farrell for their managerial job, closing the deal this time by working out a rare but not unprecedented trade for an active manager. Boston will give up Aviles, who hit .250 with 13 homers and 60 RBIs last season, and get right-hander David Carpenter in return.

It is the seventh time in major league history that one team has traded for a manager while he was under contract to another, the Red Sox said. Last year, the Miami Marlins obtained

Ozzie Guillen from the Chicago White Sox in a deal that also included three players.

Farrell received a three-year deal in Boston, which also interviewed San Diego Padres special assistant Brad Ausmus, New York Yankees bench coach Tony Pena, Los Angeles Dodgers third base coach Tim Lincecum and Baltimore Orioles third base coach DeMarlo Hale.

"We met some outstanding managerial candidates in this process," Red Sox president Larry Lucchino said in the statement. "John Farrell brings a unique blend of managerial experience, leadership and presence, pitching expertise, front office experience, and an established track record with many members of our uniformed staff and members of our front office. He will hit the ground running."

The pitching coach in Boston for four years, Farrell

was the heir apparent to Terry Francona before going to Toronto two seasons ago when it seemed like Francona would be sticking around long-term. When Francona was let go after an unprecedented collapse in September 2011, the Red Sox tried to pry Farrell loose from the Blue Jays.

But Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos asked for a top player in return for Farrell, who had been there only one season and gone 81-81.

So the Red Sox turned to Bobby Valentine to bring discipline to a clubhouse in which players drank beer and ate fried chicken in the clubhouse during games. But the former New York Mets and Japanese Leagues manager alienated so many players that the team was forced to bail out on the season, trading three highly paid but underperforming players for a chance at a fresh start in 2013.

"This place is going to be loud, I can tell you that," Vogelsong said of Monday night.

Scutaro had no chance for a

collision with Matt Holliday this time. In their first game back at AT&T Park since Holliday took out the second baseman with a

hard slide in Game 2, Holliday was scratched about an hour before first pitch because of tightness in his lower back, and Allen Craig replaced him in left field.

It hardly mattered the way Vogelsong pitched.

The Cardinals managed their only run on Craig's two-out single in the sixth. St. Louis had gone 15 innings without scoring after left-hander Barry Zito won 5-0 on Friday in Game 5.

"I just tried to do really the same thing he did, come out and set the tone early for us," Vogelsong said.

Vogelsong had his second stellar seven-inning outing against the Cardinals in a week, allowing four hits and one run. He walked one in a 102-pitch performance and lowered his postseason ERA—all this year—to 1.42.

The 35-year-old Vogelsong toiled through the minors, Japan and even winter ball to finally pitch under the October spotlight for a chance at the World Series. His latest impressive outing put the Giants one win away.

"I just believe that it's my time," Vogelsong said.

After taking a 3-1 lead back home at Busch Stadium, Mike Matheny's Cardinals will have to find some offense in a hurry if they want to get back to the World Series.

"We've got to make some adjustments but our team's done that all season," Matheny said. "One thing I know is these guys take these to heart."

These Cards might just prefer close calls. Just like last year.

They won the NL's second wild card on the second-to-last day of the regular season, then won at Atlanta to reach the division series. The Cardinals rallied from a 6-0 deficit with a four-run ninth inning to stun the Washington Nationals 9-7 in Game 5 of the division series.

The Giants got to St. Louis ace Chris Carpenter again. The Cardinals' winningest postseason pitcher with 10 victories looked out of sync for the second straight - and he left with a nearly identical line as in his 7-1 Game 2 loss here last Monday, down to the hits, earned runs, unearned runs and innings.

Carpenter was done in by one big inning this time, too. He allowed six hits and five runs, two earned, in four innings.

Gainey wins Sea Island with course-record 60

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Ga. (AP)—Winning on the PGA Tour is what Tommy Gainey dreamed about when he held a job wrapping insulation around hot water tanks, when he was playing more mini-tours than he can remember, when he was taking part in a Golf Channel reality series where he was best known as the guy wearing two gloves.

"Two Gloves" never imag-

ined his first win would unfold the way it did Sunday at Sea Island.

Seven shots behind going into the final round of the McGladrey Classic, Gainey came within one putt of a 59, and then had to wait more than two hours as David Toms, Jim Furyk and tournament host Davis Love III - who have com-

bined for 49 wins, three majors and 17 Ryder Cup teams - tried to catch him.

None of them could.

Gainey broke the course record at Sea Island with a 10-under 60, which carried him to a one-shot win over Toms. He became the fourth player this year to rally from at least seven shots in the final round to win, helped by

seven straight 3s on his card on the back nine.

"Oh, man," Gainey said. "I tell you, you're out here on the PGA Tour. You're playing with the best players in the world. Ninety-nine percent of these guys have already won, and won majors, big tournaments. The only show I can say I've won is the 'Big Break.' Now I can sit here and say I've won the McGladrey Classic here at

Sea Island, and I'm very proud to be in this tournament and very proud to win. And wow, it's been a whirlwind day.

"I didn't know having 24 putts and shooting 60 would be like this," he said. "So I'm pretty stoked about it."

Furyk was pretty bummed.

He went 55 holes without a bogey, a streak that ended on the 18th hole when he needed a birdie to force a playoff. From the fairway, Furyk pushed an 8-iron right of the green and had to settle for a 69, a sour

end to a season filled with bitter moments.

It was his fourth time with at least a share of the 54-hole lead. He lost in a playoff, made bogey on the 16th hole at Olympic Club that cost him a shot at the U.S. Open, and made double bogey on the 18th hole at Firestone to lose the Bridgestone Invitational. Furyk had said going into the week that even a win wouldn't erase memories of those losses, along with losing a 1-up lead to Sergio Garcia in the Ryder Cup.



Manning lifts Giants past RG3, Redskins



EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Eli Manning threw a 77-yard scoring pass to Victor Cruz with 1:13 to play and New York overcame a late touchdown by rookie sensation Robert Griffin III.

Manning's pass to Cruz came two plays and 19 seconds after Griffin capped what was a potential game-winning, 77-yard drive with a 30-yard touchdown pass to Santana Moss. The rookie had kept the drive alive with a 19-yard pass off a desperate scramble on a fourth-and-10 play deep in his own territory and a 24-yard run on the next play.

Cruz, however, blew by Josh Wilson and Madiou Williams and the more than 80,000 fans in MetLife Stadium celebrated as Manning triumphantly pumped his fist.

Griffin had Washington moving for another score when Moss was tackled by Chase Blackburn after an 11-yard reception and rookie Jayron Hosley recovered at the Washington 43.



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) greets New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning after their NFL football game, Sunday, Oct. 21, 2012, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Giants won, 27-23.

Patriots 29, Jets 26

In Massachusetts, another game was slipping away from the New England Patriots down the stretch. This time, their opponent made the biggest mistakes.

The New York Jets' final failure came when Rob Ninkovich knocked the ball out of Mark Sanchez's hand in overtime and recovered the fumble, ending a 29-26 win Sunday that gave the Patriots sole possession of first place in the AFC East.

For the fourth time this season, a Patriots game was decided in the final two minutes. And, for the first time, they won.

"The whole time I'm thinking, 'Hey, this can't happen again. We've just got to fight all four quarters, hold them to a field goal at the end,'" Ninkovich said.

Texans 43, Ravens 13

In Houston, Matt Schaub threw two touchdown passes, Arian Foster ran for two scores and the Houston Texans dominated a showdown of the AFC's two teams, routing the Baltimore Ravens.

Johnathan Joseph returned

an interception 52 yards for a touchdown and the Texans (6-1) beat Baltimore for the first time in seven meetings. Antonio Smith had two sacks, J.J. Watt deflected the pass that led to Joseph's interception and Houston's defense returned to form after an embarrassing loss to Aaron Rodgers and Green Bay last week.

Terrell Suggs, the 2011 defensive player of the year, had a sack and three tackles in his first action for Baltimore (5-2) since undergoing surgery on his right Achilles tendon last May.

Packers 30, Rams 20

In St. Louis, Aaron Rodgers threw for 342 yards and three touchdowns and Green Bay's depleted defense flourished on the road.

Randall Cobb caught two touchdown passes and Jordy Nelson had eight receptions for a season-best 122 yards for the Packers (4-3), who brought a huge contingent of cheesheads that was just as loud as the

home fans and chanted "Go, Pack, Go!" during the Rams' final possession. Rookie Casey Hayward made his first start in place of injured Sam Shields and intercepted his fourth pass in three games.

Saints 35, Buccaneers 28

In Tampa Bay, Jonathan Vilma played for the first time while appealing a season-long suspension for his role in the Saints bounty program and Drew Brees threw for 377 yards and four touchdowns in the come-from-behind win.

While it's debatable how much Vilma's return impacted the Saints defense, the unit turned back two drives near the end zone in the second half, including the final three plays of the game to preserve New Orleans' second straight win.

Brees extended his NFL record for consecutive games with at least one TD pass to 49, while leading long scoring drives on four straight possessions to turn

a 14-point deficit into a 28-21 halftime lead.

Raiders 26, Jaguars 23 OT

In Oakland, Sebastian Janikowski kicked a 40-yard field goal after Cecil Shorts III fumbled on the opening possession of overtime and Oakland rallied from 14 points down in the second half.

Carson Palmer threw one TD pass and ran for another to force overtime for the Raiders (2-4) before they won it after Lamarr Houston forced a fumble that Joselio Hanson recovered at the Jacksonville 21.

After one play to center the ball, Janikowski came on to kick the winning field goal to end a rough day for the Jaguars (1-5).

The Jaguars lost star running back Maurice Jones-Drew to a left foot injury on the opening drive and quarterback Blaine Gabbert to an injured left shoulder in the second quarter and managed only two downs after

halftime behind backup quarterback Chad Henne.

Colts 17, Browns 13

In Indianapolis, Andrew Luck became the first Colts quarterback to run for two touchdowns in a game since 1988.

Indy (3-3) has already won one more game than it did in 2011.

Brandon Weeden threw for 247 yards and two touchdowns, but Trent Richardson, who tried to play through a rib cartilage injury, sat out the second half after running eight times for 8 yards in the first half. The Browns (1-6) have lost 11 straight road games.

Luck scored on runs of 3 and 5 yards in the first half.

Cowboys 19, Panthers 14

In Charlotte, Dan Bailey made a go-ahead 28-yard field goal with 3:25 remaining to help Dallas end a two-game losing streak.

With Dallas trailing 14-13, Tony Romo led the Cowboys (3-3) into field goal range with a 10-play, 44-yard drive to send

Dallas to its ninth consecutive regular-season victory over the Panthers (1-5).

Romo had 227 yards and a touchdown.

On a fourth-and-1 at their 39, the Panthers caught Dallas' defense changing personnel and Cam Newton quickly completed a pass for an apparent first down. But officials ruled the Cowboys called timeout before the snap. On the ensuing play, Morris Claiborne collided with receiver Louis Murphy before the ball arrived, but no flag was thrown.

Titans 35, Bills 24

In Orchard Park, Matt Hasselbeck hit Nate Washington for a 15-yard touchdown with 1:03 left in leading Tennessee.

It was Hasselbeck's 22nd career fourth-quarter comeback and second in consecutive weeks. It happened in a game in which running back Chris Johnson enjoyed a long awaited breakout performance with 195 yards rushing and two scores.

Jamie Harper also scored twice for Tennessee (3-4). Jason McCourty's interception of a Ryan Fitzpatrick pass set up the decisive drive.

Fitzpatrick finished 27 of 35 for 225 yards and three scores, but turned the ball over twice, including a lost fumble. Buffalo is 3-4.

Vikings 21, Cardinals 14

In Minneapolis, Adrian Peterson ran for 153 yards and a first-quarter touchdown, and Minnesota survived an ugly second half to hang on for the win.

Percy Harvin caught Christian Ponder's only touchdown pass, but Ponder threw an interception that led to a second-quarter touchdown run by La-Rod Stephens-Howling. Ponder has seven turnovers in the last three games; two of them were turned into touchdowns last week at Washington.

Arizona's John Skelton went 25 for 36 for 262 yards and two turnovers. Rookie Harrison Smith returned an interception 31 yards for a touchdown in the first minute of the second half, giving the Vikings enough of a cushion to withstand the offensive woes down the stretch.

Howard debuts for Lakers in loss to Sacramento



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dwight Howard had 19 points, 12 rebounds and four blocked shots in his Lakers debut, but Los Angeles still dropped to 0-6 in the preseason when DeMarcus Cousins rallied the Sacramento Kings to a 99-92 victory on Sunday night.

The Lakers finally unveiled their new franchise center after Howard sat out the first five preseason games while exercising caution with his surgically

repaired back. The six-time All-Star played 33 minutes and made five turnovers, overcoming six months of game rust with energy from the opening tip.

Kobe Bryant scored 21 points as the Lakers' new starting five got its first game action together, playing down the stretch of a tight game against the Kings, who finished the game with 10 unanswered points.

Cousins scored 16 points and put the Kings ahead with consecutive layups in the final minute. Bryant and Steve Nash

missed late shots as Sacramento (4-1) hung on with a lineup mostly consisting of reserves against the Lakers' starters.

Aaron Brooks scored 16 points and Marcus Thornton had 15 for the Kings, who beat the Lakers 103-98 in Las Vegas on Friday night. The teams meet yet again in San Diego on Thursday.

Howard was eager for his first NBA action since early April, when the Magic shut him down for the season with a herniated disc. Just more than

six months after surgery, Howard debuted in his new gold No. 12 jersey with the Lakers, who traded All-Star center Andrew Bynum to Philadelphia in the four-team deal in August.

Not many six-time All-Stars get hazed in the preseason, but the Lakers did it to Howard before warmups. They put Howard at the front of the line to run on the court—and then everybody stayed in the tunnel while Howard ran onto the court by himself, getting a huge ovation and a laugh.

Howard and Nash both got loud ovations from the packed Staples Center stands during introductions, although the biggest cheers were reserved for Kobe.

Howard immediately made an impact, getting an assist on Bryant's 3-pointer on the Lakers' first possession. Howard then threw down a delicate two-handed dunk on the Lakers' second possession with an alley-oop pass from Pau Gasol—a sight that might be awfully common this season.

Los Angeles' starting five played together for the first 7 1/2 minutes and again in the fi-

nal 6:41 of the first half—and looked fairly sharp both times. With Howard and Bryant expertly playing off each other, the Lakers finished the second quarter with a slick 18-4 run capped by Bryant's buzzer-beating 22-footer on a pass from Gasol.

Howard still can't make free throws, going 3 for 8 in the first half, and seemed understandably rusty while playing with new teammates in his first game in six months. Kings rookie Thomas Robinson also posterized the veteran with a breathtaking, one-handed put-back dunk while flying above Howard.

Konflikt beats IT&E in Masters caging

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Konflikt edged ITE, 92-87, in 35A curtain raiser in the 2012 Masters Basketball Federation of the NMI Recreational League last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Konflikt canned five free throws in the homestretch to prevail in the back and forth game played last Oct. 15. Edwin Santos and Jun Tabora made two charities each, while Noli Arteza had a split to thwart IT&E.

Tabora and IT&E's Bruce Berline slugged it out in the opening canto with the former winning the scoring exchange, 8-7, to lift Konflikt to a 17-15 cushion.

The opposing teams continued battling at a rapid pace through the second quarter, as Berline fired 10 more points, while Tabora answered with 9 and drew a pair of three-balls from Robert Tamondong to keep Konflikt on top at halftime, 44-39.

The sides picked up right where they



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Konflikt center Edwin Santos streaks through the lane, while IT&E's Ray Lizama, left, and Felix Palacios look on during their 35A game in the Masters caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

left off after the break, as IT&E made it a one-point game, 67-68, heading into the final period. Tony Diaz teamed up with Ray Lizama and Peter Camacho in the third and scored 9 markers, while Elmer Esdrelon struck thrice from

downtown for a 13-point gash in the third quarter to help Konflikt weather IT&E's storm.

IT&E fought to the end, but could not put together a defensive stand, while Konflikt inched away by staying

true from the foul line in the clutch.

Tabora led all scorers with his 25 points, while Esdrelon added 22. Berline led IT&E with his 20 markers, while Diaz chipped in 19.

In the second match, Hi-Five stepped it up in the fourth quarter to beat Mobil/QQ Rent A Car, 88-83.

Jun Abedes and Erwin Gomez each logged eight points in the first period, as Mobil/QQ initiated a 24-15 favor.

High-Five tightened up on defense and managed to slow down its opponents in the second quarter to move within four at intermission, 33-37. Banjo Basila, Pando Muleta, Ponce Rasa, and Tim Wesley nabbed a pair of baskets each in the second-quarter surge.

Both teams made some tidy adjustments at halftime and went back and forth in the third quarter with QQ gaining some cushion, 67-62, behind the 12 points of Jun Pantaleon. However, High-Five went into overdrive in the closing frame to steal the lead, as Basila saved fuel for the late push and delivered 13 markers in the payoff period. Basila's 25 points led four team-

MOBIL

From Page 28

their new teammates.

In contrast, Mobil paraded almost the same lineup and made additions that helped the team eliminate Armatech. Banjo Basila, Errol Peredo, Badong Camacho, and Angelo Fernando are among the new recruits and the quartet combined for 32 points to back up hold-overs Marvin Rabauliman, Joemary Tumaquip, Jun Estolas, and Gyles Ruloked, who all scored in double digits.

Rabauliman paced Mobil with his 20 points, making 8 of them in the opening canto to give his team a 24-21 lead. Armatech played its best game in the

first period, as eight different players contributed on offense to keep Mobil within striking distance.

However, in the last three quarters, there was no Armatech player who really stepped up to anchor the team's so-so offense, allowing Mobil to keep control of the match with Rabauliman and company showing chemistry to produce baskets in streaks.

Armatech made one final push to launch a comeback early in the fourth when it cut Mobil's lead from 17 to 10, 58-68, however, Camacho and Rabauliman teamed up for a 10-0 run to end the one-sided bout.

Jawn Joyner led Armatech's losing cause with his 23 points, but most of

them came when Mobil had already let its guard down. Berline was the only other double figure scorer for Armatech with his 15 markers, while Esdrelon was held to 8 and was without a field goal in the final canto. Guiab also struggled, nailing only 4 points. The rest of Armatech's bench totaled only 20 markers against the 30 of Mobil.

Meanwhile, top-ranked Pacific Islands Club dueled the last-seeded Fong's Bakery in the second playoff game last weekend, but the score sheets of the match were unavailable at press time and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Wednesday edition.

Two more quarterfinals games will be played tonight to determine the semis

cast. Brabu/Ashley faces the Archers at 6:30pm with the winner meeting Mobil in the first semis game on Thursday. Then in the second match tonight at 8pm, Hi-Five squares off against the Hoops with the victor challenging the winner of the PIC-Fong's tiff in the second semis pairing on Thursday.

Mobil 95 – Rabauliman 20, Peredo 13, Tumaquip 12, Ruloked 11, Estolas 11, Basila 8, Camacho 6, Fernando 5, Abuan 2, Galzote 2, Gapor 1.

Armatech 73 – Joyner 23, Berline 11, Esdrelon 8, Montano 8, Trajano 4, Guiab 4, Moreno 4, Tobias 2, Ja. Ano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-21, 44-39, 64-53, 96-73.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

more points and the Rollers 1 added another pair of three-balls to run off with the win, while Abrams was held to 7 markers.

Morales led all scorers with 24 points, while Abrams finished with 19 on the short end.

Hi-5 60, D-South 38

The fourth time was the charm for Hi-5 (1-3), as it finally broke into the win column with a sound victory over D-South (0-4).

Wilfredo Francisco's 6 points led a host of four others, as Hi-5 jumped out to a 22-6 lead in Saturday's opening pairing.

D-South's Jun Alipio got things rolling in the second frame, as his 6 points matched Hi-5's entire output and his team went on to trim the deficit to 10 at halftime, 18-28.

Alipio led D-South through the first two exchanges with 11 points and added another six checks in the third quarter, but needed some help on both ends of the court, as HI-5's starters returned and

overwhelmed the developing squad.

Hi-5 applied pressure with a strong defensive stand and shared the ball well, as five different players contributed in the uprising for a commanding 45-26 margin, with only 10 minutes to go in the game.

Jethro Cruz then bagged 7 points down the home stretch to finish off D-South, which drew an impressive performance from Alipio, who had a game-high 23, but simply could not take on the challenge by himself. Mike Aruaga led Hi-5 with 14 points, while Francisco added 12.

Proa 42, Rollers 2 35

In the third pairing, Matson Consulting/Northern Marianas College's Proa defeated Rollers 2 (2-2), 42-35, to claim its third win in four games and sole possession of second place in the standings.

The third match of the day was an even one for about three quarters until Proa's depth proved to be the difference as the time wore down.

Both teams started the game with physical defense in mind, but Rollers 2's Earl Ermitanio worked his way to

the line, making five free throws that nosed his team ahead after the opening period, 8-7.

Kobe Mendoza and Jun Javier then each drained a pair of baskets in the second quarter to push Proa in front at halftime, 19-15. They finished the half with 6 points apiece.

Both teams reverted back to their defensive game plans at the start of the second half, and though it was still anyone's game, Proa maintained a slight edge, 29-23, after three quarters.

As the game progressed, it appeared as though Proa did a better job sharing the ball throughout the match. The defending champion also protected the leather well and made extra passes to find the open man.

That man turned out to be Aaron Pamintuan, who came off the bench and delivered 9 big points that sealed the deal, as Rollers 2's John Darag did all he could to mount a comeback, but to no avail. Rollers 2 had chances, but fell out of sync under pressure in what was a very close match until the last two minutes.

Pamintuan's 12 points led Proa, while Darag paced the Rollers 2 with 9.

Ruselle and Raphael missed the cut last year after placing only at No. 19 and No. 55, respectively.

Four other Saipan players joined the doubles and all-events, but are unlikely to advance to the next round after missing the Top 10 in the first two categories.

Robert Talavera and Simon Manacop

combined for 2,272 pinfalls to place at No. 25, while Bernard Paraiso and Ariel Dumapit mustered only 1,834 to finish at the cellar. Adding his 1,269 in the singles, Manacop is currently ranked No. 24 in the all-events, while Talavera (985 pinfalls), Paraiso (992), and Dumapit (888) are way behind, placing at No. 55, 63, and 66, accordingly.

mates in double figures, while Pantaleon and Abedes wielded the brunt of the damage for Mobil/QQ with 20 and 19 markers, respectively.

First Game

Konflikt 92 – Tabora 25, Esdrelon 21, Santos 17, Tamondong 11, Yalung 6, Trajano 5, Patawaran 4, Areza 1

IT&E 87 – Berline 20, Diaz 19, Camacho 15, F Palacios 13, Lizama 11, G. Palacios 8

Scoring by quarters: 15-17, 44-39, 68-67, 92-87

Second Game

High Five 88 – Basila 25, Wesley 15, Rasa 14, Muleta 12, F. Pangelinan 12, Acosta 5, Aaron 3, Matagolai 2.

Mobil/QQ Rent A Car 83 – Pantaleon 21, Abedes 20, Moises 11, Mendiola 9, Gomez 8, Deocares 6, Loste 4, Tenorio 1.

Scoring by quarters: 15-24, 33-37, 62-67, 88-83.

SONICS

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lost last Wednesday via forfeiture to the Oleai Ol'Aces (3-2). Other standings include LD Prime (2-4), Kagman (2-4), and the Chalan Kanoa Saints (2-5).

The Sonics kept their unbeaten record after holding Hi-5 to no more than 11 points in each of the first three quarters. They held Hi-5 to 8 markers in the opening canto and 11 in the second to open a 32-19 halftime advantage.

Jaymark De Guzman fired 14 of his 16 points in the first half to give the Sonics the early lead and they never looked back, as the best that Hi-5 could do was scored 13 markers in the fourth, still 2 points short of the Sonics' output in that period.

In the second game, Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz stormed out of the gate with 12 points to help Proa take a 24-16 lead.

Ichitaro Faisao then took the reins in the second quarter and darted up and down the court for 10 points to expand the margin at halftime, 45-35.

John Darag scrambled for 12 points for Rollers 1 in the first two frames, but needed some bench support against Proa's full 12-man roster.

The Rollers 1 began to show exhaustion midway through the third quarter and Proa capitalized, as it gingerly pulled away, 67-53, heading into the final canto. Faisao and Diaz teamed up for 14 points in the third-quarter push, while Ivan Sanarex came off the bench in the fourth quarter and delivered 10 points to contribute in the 20-point win.

Faisao led Proa with his 21 points, while Darag top-scored for Rollers 1 with his 23.

First Game

Sonics 57 – De Guzman 16, Tudela 8, Del Rosario 8, E. Caro 7, Javier 6, Cadiang 6, Sula 4, Aranda 2.

Hi-5 43 – Cabaltica 14, Macahito 11, Hofschneider 7, Fera 6, Aldan 3, Cruz 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 32-19, 42-30, 57-43.

Second Game

Proa 87 – Faisao 21, Diaz 18, Mettao 12, Villagomez 10, Sanarex 10, Jas. Palacios 6, Jac. Palacios 4, Hemley 4, Taitano 2.

Rollers 1 67 – Darag 23, R. Deleon Guerrero 19, Suarez 11, T. Caro 8, L. De Leon Guerrero 6.

Scoring by quarters: 24-18, 45-33, 67-53, 87-67.

ZAPANTA

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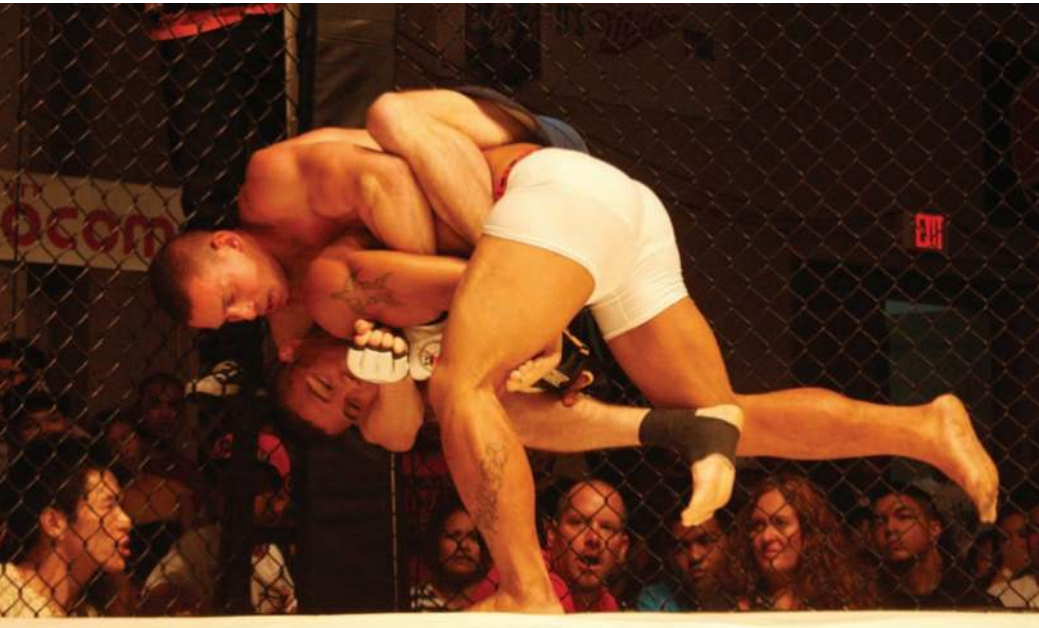
the Top 16 in the men's all-events. Ruselle's 2, 530 total pending the results of the team event is ranked No. 8, tying Kuching, Malaysia's Lok Tze Kong, while Raphael is at the No. 10th spot with his 2,515.

Rites of Passage 13: Destiny

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Trench Tech/Tiyan Tough Walkers' "Shishka" Bob Alvarez of Guam works from the top position against Marianas Elite's Vince "Vince-sanity" Pua in their light weight pairing during the Rites of Passage 13: Destiny held late last month at the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.



Guam's Jared Melon of Spike 22 pounces on top of Trench Tech's Ning "Bo-Slice" Cepeda in the semi-main event middleweight bout.



Trench Tech's Shane "Pikaboo" Alvarez, left, tries to sink in a Kimura arm lock against Marianas Elite's Derrick "El-Peligro" Rangamar.



Ray "Faluwasch" Teregeyo, top, tries to apply a choke submission on fellow Saipan independent Garry "Dissa" Ray.



Trench Tech featherweight champion Mark "The Dark" Nuique delivers some vicious ground-and-pound blows to Zalaka's Jake Ilo.



Zalaka's Jordan Manglona keeps Trench Tech's Wini Roldan Jr. at bay with a stiff straight left kick in their Saipan versus Saipan kickboxing exhibition set at 130 lbs.



Trench Tech's Fasi "Quickdraw" Jesse, left, wrestles for position against Rob "The Real Deal" Wusstig of Guam's Countershot MMA.



Independent fighter Leo Mendiola throws a haymaker at Tavita independent Kevin Villagomez in their Saipan versus Saipan double debut set at 120 lbs.



Guam's Jose "Young Blood" Ramirez of Underground Xtreme finishes off Team Haga's Travis "Flying Man" Eubanks of Saipan in the first round of their welterweight battle.



Trench Tech's Renz "The Intense" Benghit of Tinian connects with a right hand on Guam Muay Thai's Kyle "300" Martin in their kickboxing exhibition set at 140lbs.



Giants thump
Cardinals to force
NLCS Game 7

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Manning lifts
Giants past RG3,
Redskins

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mobil punches first semis ticket

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mobil marched into the semifinals of the 2012 Emon Lodge 179 Basketball League-Docomo Brotherhood Cup after dominating Armatech, 95-73, in the first play-off game last Saturday at Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The early collision of the inaugural season's finalists saw Mobil consistently throwing jabs in the first three quarters before unleashing the killer punches midway in the fourth frame to oust Armatech.

Armatech missed a return trip to the finals, as it fought Mobil only to stay in the game and never showed an effort to pull off an upset against its second-seeded foe. A relatively different roster from the one that brought the team to the finals in 2010 made it hard for Armatech to advance further this time. Only Elmer Esdrelon, Bruce Berline, and Junar Guiab were part of the original roster and the trio had a tough time jelling with

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Marvin Rabauliman appears to sit on Junar Guiab's chest, as he goes up for an off-balance shot during the third quarter of their playoff game in the Emon Lodge caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Zapanta brothers boost bid in Malaysia

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



A Top 5 finish in the men's doubles increased the chances of siblings Raphael and Ruselle Zapanta in the Masters Finals of the ongoing 26th Asian Intercity Bowling Championships.

The Zapanta brothers teamed up for 2,518 pinfalls in the men's doubles competition at the Premium Lanes Penang in Georgetown, Penang, Malaysia, last Sunday, to place fifth out of 37 pairs. Ruselle collected 1,291 pinfalls, including the best score (268) in a single game for an impressive average



Raphael



Ruselle

of 215.17 pinfalls—the seventh best among the more than 60 bowlers. He recorded 179, 267, 194, 190, and 193 in the five other games.

Raphael had 200-plus pinfalls in three games (213 and 225 in Games 1 and 2 and 216 in Game 4) and adding his 182, 199, and

192, he netted 1,227 and also averaged 200-plus pinfalls (204.50) in six games.

Counting Raphael's fourth-field best 1,288 in the men's singles last Saturday and Ruselle's 1,239 (No. 13), the Zapanta siblings are currently in

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Rollers 1 raises streak to four



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Three CNMI Girls Junior National Team members swarm Rollers 1's Adrian De Luna during their game in the U16 division of the Rotary caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



The Rollers 1 outclassed the CNMI Girls Junior National Team, 72-50, in the first U16 game in the 2012 Rotary Club of Saipan's 21st Annual Youth Basketball League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium to

extend its winning run to four.

Rollers 1 buried a pair of three-pointers in the first quarter for an early 14-7 lead and a five-point string from CJ Morales at the end of the second period stretched the advantage to 12 at the half, 28-16.

Kayla Ito paced the CNMI Junior Nationals (2-2) with 7 points in the first two frames and after the break they went to their center Rachel Abrams,

who managed to grind out 10 points in the third quarter. However, The Junior Nationals were still looking for a way to stop Rollers 1's transition offense and remained in pursuit, 35-48, heading into the fourth quarter.

Irvyn Malonzo sunk two treys in the third period to keep Rollers 1 in control. Then in the fourth, Morales scored 8

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Sonics remain unbeaten in U20; Proa wins

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The Sonics lengthened their flawless run to six after overcoming Hi-5, 57-43, in the opening game in the U20 division of the 2012 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The defending champions Sonics are neck and neck with the Rollers 2 (6-0) atop the standings, while Hi-Five (2-4) is in a four-way tie for fourth place. Mariana Resort/NMC Proa is ranked third, improving to a 5-1 record after an 87-67 rout of the Rollers 1 (2-4). The Rollers 1 is on three-game skid since late September, as it also

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WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Proa's Ichitaro Faisao drives against Rollers 1 defenders during their U20 game in the Rotary caging last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.